

THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## PLANET GELDOF

WHY WE THINK THE WORLD OF SIR BOB IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW

DON'T STAND BY YOUR MAN, HILLARY  
DEBORAH ORR, REVIEW, P5



# Boost for the euro as Lafontaine exits in German power struggle

**OSKAR LAFONTAINE**, the German Finance Minister dubbed "Europe's most dangerous man" in the British tabloid press, resigned yesterday after apparently losing a power struggle against Chancellor Gerhard Schröder.

The departure of "Red Oskar", as he was known to friends and foe alike, is certain to herald an abrupt policy shift in Germany, with repercussions for the balance of power in Europe. Mr Lafontaine represented old-fashioned socialist values, whereas Mr Schröder is flattered by comparisons to Tony Blair. For "New Labour", the ill-fated slogan which propelled him to victory in last September's elections.

Germany's recent tempestuous relations with Europe are likely to improve dramatically. Berlin holds the EU presidency and Mr Lafontaine had antagonised the British government by repeatedly calling for "tax-harmonisation" in Europe.

BY IMRE KARACS in Berlin

Although tensions had been rising between the German Chancellor and his powerful rival, last night's announcement was completely unexpected. Mr Lafontaine, who survived an assassination attempt in 1990, had been credited with more staying power. According to a terse statement issued through a spokesman, Mr Schröder was "surprised" by Mr Lafontaine's action, regretted it and thanked him for all his good work.

That is not quite the version that leaked to the press after an extraordinarily bitter cabinet meeting on Wednesday night. According to these accounts, the Chancellor castigated several ministers for pushing policies that did not enjoy the support of the voters. He was particularly scathing about that way the German business community was affronted by Mr Lafontaine's tax reforms.

According to ministers attending that meeting, the Chancellor warned his leftist colleagues against putting too great a burden on business. Last week he received an open letter from managers of 22 of Germany's biggest concerns, complaining of Mr Lafontaine's tax reforms. Insurance companies, in particular, threatened to move their operations out of Germany and to stop buying German government bonds.

At Wednesday night's stormy cabinet session, Mr Schröder read a litany of economic policies which had gone wrong. He lambasted the tax reforms which appeared to threaten the creation of new jobs, and took a side-swipe at the Greens' efforts to bump up fuel prices and tighten the law on car emissions.

"There will come a point where I will no longer take responsibility for such a policy," Mr Schröder is reported to have told his colleagues.

He was scathing about Mr Lafontaine's plans to inflict punitive taxes on the nuclear industry, just as the government was trying to negotiate a deal to phase out nuclear power. Mr Lafontaine had proposed to tax the utilities' financial reserves set aside for the closure of nuclear plants. Mr Schröder is reported to have described the move as "a strategic error".



Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, whose departure heralds a policy shift by Bonn

spokesman, Uwe-Karsten Heye, yesterday confirmed that the Chancellor had ordered all ministers to check all new policies "for any negative effects on the economy". "All problems have to be viewed realistically and interests weighed so that the coalition keeps its majority support," he added.

Mr Schröder has been rattled by a series of setbacks, culminating in an unexpected defeat for the Social Democrats and Greens at regional elections in Hesse.

He is acutely aware of the sentiment on the street, which held his government in contempt but awarded him good

marks for style. As the most business-friendly Social Democrat Chancellor ever, he was stunned by the "business revolt" of recent weeks. Through his political career, Mr Schröder managed to get ahead by cutting deals, especially with business.

But the government has an-

tagonised the business classes. The "alliance for jobs" between employers, employees and the government was getting nowhere, unemployment was rising, and the German economy was spinning out of control.

As in September last year, the country was ready for change.

## Celebrations over exit of 'bogeyman'

BOTTLES OF champagne were opened in Downing Street last night to celebrate the departure of "Red Oskar".

It was not the only celebration. The confrontational German Finance Minister was not popular in other European capitals. Officials at the European Central Bank had hated the crass way he tried to pressure them into cutting interest rates. And the financial markets were simply jubilant, sending the euro soaring from its embarrassing record lows within minutes of the news of his surprise resignation.



DIANE COYLE

His biggest fans were, perhaps, Britain's Eurosceptics. Mr Lafontaine was their favourite bogeyman, his push for tax harmonisation within Europe giving them the chance to argue that Brussels wanted to pile more taxes on to the UK. In truth, Red Oskar was more isolated within Europe than he seemed, and he is unlikely to garner enough support to become the next President of the European Commission.

Despite the apparently warm relations between him and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, the Frenchman has little genuine sympathy for Mr Lafontaine's old-style Keynesian economic views.

Certainly, these views were not shared by the European Central Bank, with which he picked a damaging public row. The bankers argued that Germany needed fundamen-

tal reform to its jobs market; he responded by trying to bully the ECB into an interest rate cut. The euro could not have had a worse start.

The stimulus of a reduction in borrowing costs in Euro-land is now more likely to go ahead. It will allow the EU, aspiring to be an economic power to rival the US to shoulder a share of the responsibility for keeping the world economy out of recession.

More fundamentally, the Blairite vision of economic reform as the engine of prosperity is now likely to make more headway. While Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, is no Tony Blair, he does not take the Lafontaine view that a boost to demand is all Europe needs.

Charles Grant, director of the Centre for European Reform, said last night: "This is wonderful news. It will shift the intellectual climate in Europe back towards the agenda of economic reform."

There was no official comment from the Treasury or Downing Street, nor the ECB or the Bundesbank. They kept their celebrations private.

# Premiership chiefs quit in £50m row

THE CHIEF executive and the chairman of football's Premier League were forced to resign last night in row over consultancy contracts potentially worth an estimated £50m to the television broadcaster BSkyB.

Peter Leaver, the chief executive, and Sir John Quinton, were shown the door by the 20 Premiership club chairmen as a sign of their anger over contracts with Sam Chisholm and David Chance, who were enlisted to help with the next round of television negotiations. The row underlines the impact on football of the millions at stake through broadcast rights.

By GLENN MOORE Football Correspondent

In what has become a winter of football administrators, Mr Leaver and Sir John follow Graham Kelly and Keith Wiseman, their Football Association equivalents, and Jim Parry, former chief executive of the Scottish FA, in resigning in the face of overwhelming opposition from their rank-and-file membership.

As a consequence, the five major posts in British football administration - as well as that of the England football coach - are currently in the hands of caretakers. The sport may be enjoying a financial boom but its



administration continues to hunch from crisis to crisis.

The timing of this development could be especially damaging as Mr Leaver, a skilled advocate, had been steering the Premier League's defence against the Office of Fair Trading's investigation into the collective bargaining of television rights. If the case, currently in the Restrictive Practices Court, is lost it could lead to an acceleration of football's wealth gap and the break-up of the Premiership.

It was an attempt to manage the relationship between television and football which provoked yesterday's denouement though - as with Messrs Kelly and Wiseman - Mr Leaver and Sir John have been punished as much for their methods as their judgement.

Mr Chisholm and Mr Chance were enlisted to guide the Premier League through the next wave of television negotiations. As both are former BSkyB executives this appeared to be something of a coup, but it was then revealed that their contracts were potentially worth millions to them. Each is reportedly due to receive a £1.8m consultancy fee plus incentive payments that could total more than £50m.

There was also disquiet over Mr Chisholm's links with Tottenham Hotspur - a club Mr Leaver has supported for 40 years and upon whose board he once served.

It is thought there was an unsuccessful attempt to renegotiate the contracts before Mr

Leaver and Sir John resigned. But it was not just this deal that culminated in yesterday's rift: there was also a clash of personalities, particularly between Mr Leaver and the more forthright club chairmen. Mr Leaver never quite managed to hide the superior manner acquired in a long career at the Bar, and that inevitably grated with the club chairmen, a body of largely self-made men with strong opinions.

Mr Leaver is temporarily replaced by Mike Foster, the Premier League's secretary. Dave Richards, the chairman of Sheffield Wednesday, takes over as acting chairman.

### INSIDE THIS SECTION

Paratrooper cleared  
Peter Lee Clegg was acquitted of the murder of a Belfast teenager  
Home P2

Stadium sold  
An FA-led consortium took control of Wembley  
Home P7

Officials expelled  
Five British officials expelled from the Congo amid spy claims  
Foreign P16

Tibet demonstrations  
Two monks detained in Lhasa over protests  
Foreign P17

Prudential buys M&G  
Britain's biggest life insurer is to buy M&G in a £1.5bn agreed deal  
Business P20

Stone moves to Villa  
Steve Stone has signed for Aston Villa for £5.5m  
Sport P32

### INSIDE THE REVIEW

Donald MacIntyre  
Who will Tony Blair choose as our new man in Brussels?  
Comment P3

Philip Hensher  
The day I was named in the House  
Comment P4

Mark Steel  
There is great joy in doing radio in the blue rinse resort of Sandwich  
Features P8

Star light, star bright  
At last, a date of birth for the universe  
Science P9

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AND L. BRIAN VINER  
WITH F. SMITH

THE INDEPENDENT  
Friday 12 March 1999

HOME NEWS/3

# Addicts import a plague of robbery and violence to Dublin's fair city



A checkpoint operated by the Drugs Awareness Committee in the Brookview Tallaght area of Dublin. Few are untouched by the effects of drug abuse. **Leon Farrell**



Cafe culture in Dublin's Grafton Street

## ...but it's still a magnet for the stylish and rich

THERE WAS a time when for much of Dublin's youth, the first opportunity to leave was the opportunity they jumped at. Not any more.

With the help of money from Europe, Dublin has become one of the most fashionable cities of the continent.

The success story of Temple Bar - an older, forgotten area in the city centre and its transformation into the restaurant and club quarter - is well known. But elsewhere the city has also been reborn.

In the Smithfield Market area, new villages have been developed with former distilleries and grain stores turned into modern working and living accommodation. While not everyone is convinced of the value-for-money of these developments, there is little doubt they are changing the face of Dublin. New conversions have also grown on northern and western outskirts where high-tech plants such as Intel in Leixlip have created thousands of jobs. Similar developments have sprung up in the satellite towns of Blanchardstown, Swords and Lucan.

The revival in the Irish capital's economy has been built on low-pay agreements, tax cuts and incentives for developers complementing a healthy inward investment. Multinationals in turn have been lured by some of Europe's lowest corporation tax rates and the promise of the highest rate of profit in the European Union.

BY ALAN MURDOCH

In central Dublin it has been also driven by arguably the greatest success of the controversial former taoiseach, Charles Haughey - the International Financial Services Centre, directly employing 6,500 people and built on formerly derelict dockland.

Taking advantage of tax, rent and rates write-offs, builders have erected a forest of private apartment blocks on every available space, creating city homes for thousands in a reversal of a flight to the suburbs stretching from the Fifties to the Eighties.

The building boom has accompanied a revival in city living, also fostered by Mr Haughey, enlivening older narrow streets.

Key to the continuing Irish boom is the agreement between state, unions and employers trading wage restraint in return for tax cuts, which has held Irish inflation at low levels for a decade.

This has allowed Ireland to undercut near neighbours with lower wage costs for inward investors. As a result, unemployment fell this month to 6.8 per cent, its lowest level for 16 years, compared with a peak of 18 per cent in the late 1980s.

But this is the backdrop. Front of stage is a city of new-found confidence and new-found opportunities. It is also a city which younger people are not rushing to leave.

THE MENACING clatter of helicopter blades wakes residents of the newly developed apartment blocks near the Grand Canal in Dublin two or three nights a week. Sometimes flying high, but more often than not swooping in low with its high-powered spotlight, the police helicopter is a persistent disturbance to the young, white-collar, and increasingly deprived residents of the Liberties area of Dublin.

That noise, together with the relentless wall of car alarms, is a reminder of the drugs and crime problem that is blighting one of Europe's most successful cities.

In the past decade or so Dublin has undergone a transformation. Thousands of young, working people have been lured to the inner-city by flats at affordable prices. But the renaissance is being threatened by drug addicts. In prosperous commercial areas, every shop has security staff on the doors.

BY ALAN MURDOCH  
AND ANDREW BUNCOMBE

In Patrick Street, the small convenience stores opposite the Protestant cathedral have their own doormen, while local newsagents weary of "jumpovers" - where robbers leap over the counter to get at the till - invest in closed circuit television.

And there are the stories of sheer horror. One shop worker - one of 2,200 people who reported attacks or threats of attacks in the city in 1996 - was stabbed by a robber armed with a blood-filled syringe. For weeks while he waited for the results of blood tests he was terrified he might have Aids. "I was a nervous wreck," he said. "The guy that did it to me is dead now. He died of Aids two years ago."

The violence is not restricted to robbery. Alan Byrne, 27, a rehabilitated addict, was shot three times in the lower back in an assassination attempt

last Tuesday in the Coombe area as he set off for work. Byrne shared a flat with Josie Dwyer, 41, a HIV-positive heroin addict. They were together on the night in May 1996 when Dwyer was repeatedly attacked and eventually beaten to death in an apparent vigilante mob attack.

After two decades of an escalating drugs problem, the tactics of Dublin anti-drug vigilante groups are uncompromising. In the Sandrine area late last year they put up posters listing names of drug dealers to be shot.

As if this were not enough, there are savage internecine "turf wars" between dealers. "Cottony Joe" Delaney, 54, an alleged ecstasy dealer, is accused of the torture and murder of a dealer Mark Dwyer, 23, in December 1996.

Similar levels of violence surrounded the operations of PJ "the Psycho" Judge, a criminal with suspected INLA links,

who tried to take over Dublin's cannabis market in 1996. Judge, 41, who was shot dead two years ago, was suspected of killing five rivals.

One of his suspected victims was William "Jock" Corbally, whose body was never found. He reportedly had his teeth pulled out, was beaten with a shovel before having his throat cut, then thrown into a lime pit in Co Kildare.

But dealers are willing to risk such violence for a share of a burgeoning market. According to the most recent figures, Dublin now has around 13,000 regular heroin users, up from 8,000 to 10,000 two years ago. Officers based at the Garda headquarters in Dublin's Phoenix Park believe that heroin is now responsible for 80 per cent of the city's crime. Their studies suggest addicts commit 85 per cent of aggravated burglaries, 82 per cent of muggings and 84 per cent of theft from cars.

As with Dublin's population,

the profile of the heroin users is largely youthful. A recent survey carried out by a government task force suggested that 72 per cent of heroin users were male, 83 per cent unemployed and 69 per cent lived with their parents. Two-thirds of those regularly using heroin in the city are under 25, and almost the same proportion left school at 16 or younger.

Tony Geoghegan, director of the Merchants Quay Project which treats drug users, said 900 mainly young, first-time drug users sought treatment in the city last year. A high proportion of these had begun injecting in the last six months.

"You are dealing with high levels of educational disadvantage and poverty, with few having aspirations," he said. "[They come] from areas where there is an established black economy and where maybe the parents were involved in crime or drugs."

The Irish government has

tried to deal with the Dublin heroin problem. In the early Eighties it used undercover officers whose efforts, accompanied by community action, were effective in tackling dealers who were then less careful about distancing themselves from the product.

And after the 1996 killing of journalist Veronica Guerin by drug dealers, a murder which prompted an international outcry, the Government poured more funds into anti-drugs measures. A new Criminal Assets Bureau targeting major dealers was set up.

But as fast as the Garda act, so new dealers move in. The deaths continue, the estates built with short-sightedness in the Sixties continue to be littered with syringes and glass from smashed up cars, while the problems spill over into the newly gentrified areas where the residents are woken at night by the sound of helicopter blades.

## Kidman unrobed in Kubrick's final legacy

STANLEY KUBRICK, who died last week, was considered to be the most radical of directors. But even he, it seems, could not change some cinematic traditions.

A trailer from his final film, *Eyes Wide Shut*, shown yesterday amid fevered publicity at a US film trade show in Las Vegas, features Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise in a passionate encounter. Miss Kidman is entirely naked except for her ear-

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

rings. Mr Cruise is naked from the waist up.

The 90-second clip was personally chosen to be the first preview of his film by Kubrick, who died at his home in Hertfordshire last Sunday aged 70.

Even before Kubrick's death there was huge interest in his latest film, his first since 1997's *Full Metal Jacket*. *Eyes Wide*

*Shut* was filmed under conditions of total secrecy.

Nicole Kidman has merely made the comment that the director insisted on dealing with her and Tom Cruise (her husband both in the film and in life) separately.

She added cryptically: "When you see the film you will see why."

The clip begins with Kidman standing in front of a mirror, taking off her earrings. Cruise

approaches her from the side, kissing and caressing her while a blues soundtrack plays. Warner Brothers chairman Terry Semel described the clip as "short and provocative."

After the clip was shown at the trade convention in the USA there was a brief moment of silence before the 3,000 strong audience, composed largely of cinema operators, burst into applause.

It emerged yesterday that

there was a special screening of the whole film last week with Cruise and Kidman in New York, which Mr Semel attended. Even though his studio had funded the movie, it was the first time he had seen it. So concerned was Kubrick about secrecy that he reportedly insisted that the projectionist turn his back during the screening.

Filming of *Eyes Wide Shut* took 15 months. While very lit-

tle is known about it, it is believed to be a sexual thriller in which Cruise and Kidman play psychiatrists married to each other, loosely based on Arthur Schnitzler's 1926 novella *Dr. Mystere*.

The film is scheduled to open in America in July, prior to its UK premiere. Mr Semel predicted it would receive an adults only 'TV' rating.

My Year With Kubrick. Review, page 10



Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise in 'Eyes Wide Shut'

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# Price fixing of medicines to be ended

AN END to price fixing on medicines was signalled yesterday when the Government's consumer watchdog was given the go-ahead to begin legal moves to abolish the practice.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) will now prepare its case for a full court hearing next year which could result in sharp falls in the artificially inflated prices charged for common branded remedies such as painkillers, cough medicines and vitamins, saving consumers an estimated £300m a year.

Allan Leighton, chief executive of the supermarket chain, Asda, which has campaigned against price fixing, said after the hearing: "The writing is on the wall for resale price maintenance and the drug manufacturers should take the hint and now voluntarily stop imposing this health tax."

Price fixing has been outlawed on most products under the Resale Price Maintenance Act, 1964. Medicines were exempted from the ban in 1970 to protect small chemists' shops, which argued that if they could not make enough profit from the sale of the medicines many

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

would be forced to close, leaving large areas of the country without access to medical drugs.

The OFT said that in the last 20 years the market had changed. Chemists sold a wider range of goods and were less dependent on the income they got from the sale of medicines. This had fallen from 10-13 per cent of their total sales in 1970 to 7-8 per cent in the mid-Nineties.

Yesterday, the Restrictive Practices Court in London backed the OFT and agreed that the drug manufacturers had a case to answer. Giving his ruling, Mr Justice Buckley said that he and two lay members felt there was "no doubt" there had been changes in the way pharmaceuticals were marketed since 1970.

"We are convinced it is in the public interest for the court to revisit this matter," he said.

David Oliver QC, representing the OFT, had told the judges at a hearing last month that there was no longer any reason to protect chemists' shops, which had been rising in num-

ber or had remained stable since 1987.

There was also evidence of changing shopping habits, with 62 per cent of people canvassed in a survey saying they visited a chemist to have a prescription dispensed. In 1995, 73 per cent of chemists' turnover was from National Health Service prescriptions compared with 45 per cent in 1970. High-street pharmacists had claimed that lifting the exemption would result in one-quarter of all chemists going out of business.

John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, said: "This is good news for the consumers who have been forced to pay unnecessarily high prices for too long. I began the fight to end price fixing in this sector in 1986 and at last we can now proceed to the High Court. This is the last bastion of resale price maintenance in the economy."

A spokeswoman for the Community Pharmacy Action Group said: "We hope the full hearing will grant us a five-year moratorium so that alternative ways of protecting community pharmacies can be found."

## Political broadcast by the Best Friends' Party



Tony Blair and Gordon Brown live on Talk Radio yesterday. They claimed to have 'the strongest political friendship in Britain'.

THE PRIME MINISTER and the Chancellor of the Exchequer made broadcasting history yesterday by being interviewed together on the radio.

Tony Blair described their relationship as the strongest political friendship in Britain, dismissing stories that claimed Gordon Brown had not forgiven him for becoming leader of

BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

the Labour Party. For his part, the Chancellor joked that his neighbours at 10 Downing Street were a noisy family, and complained of hearing the Prime Minister playing his guitar too loudly.

Mr Blair confessed that he

found being Prime Minister "tremendous" and said that he regretted having to live in a flat above 10 Downing Street.

The two were given a remarkably light grilling by listeners to Scott Chisholm's phone-in show on Talk Radio.

Callers to the programme were sceptical about the Budget and focused on ways in

which it would make them poorer. Several complained about increases in duty on vehicle fuel.

Mr Brown offered personally to intervene in the case of a disabled caller who asked whether he would be eligible for benefit to soften the impact of increased fuel duties. "Why don't you write me a note and

we will get this sorted out?" said the Chancellor.

The Prime Minister lived up to his reputation for false modesty when he said to one caller: "Hello Joyce, Tony Blair here..." before going on to explain why the Government could not afford to scrap the television licence fee for pensioners.

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## £3.3bn British film industry is booming

THE BRITISH film industry is now a network of small businesses, most of them operating with fewer than 10 employees, a new report shows. It has gone from a world-famous but precarious studio system to a thriving £3.3bn enterprise run by literally thousands of small companies.

The latest edition of *Cultural Trends*, from the independent Policy Studies Institute (PSI), describes the current state of the film industry as a "£3.3bn small business". It states: "In its postwar heyday the British film industry boasted world-famous production studios such as Ealing, Gainsborough, British Lion, Rank, London Films and British International Pictures. Half a century later, the industry con-

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

sists largely of small companies with fewer than 10 employees and high numbers of part-time and self-employed workers."

The report says that there are now around 3,000 businesses engaged in film and video activities. There was an 11 per cent increase in the total number of film and video businesses between 1996 and 1997.

The PSI stresses the industry's growing contribution to the economy. Turnover of film and video activities increased by 62 per cent, from £2bn in 1995 to £3.3bn in 1996. United Kingdom earnings by film companies from overseas markets rose from £587m in 1993 to £672m in 1997. The continuing transforma-

tion of the industry is shown by the fact that nearly 80 per cent of all UK film and video enterprises had a turnover of less than £500,000; nearly 90 per cent of film and video businesses had fewer than 10 employees. 98 per cent had fewer than 50 employees, and a total of only 10 companies employed more than 250 people.

Sara Selwood, the editor of *Cultural Trends*, commented: "The figures confirm that the film industry makes a significant contribution to Britain's economy as well as its identity overseas. [But] one of the most striking findings of this report is how difficult it is to pull together data about the British film industry." *Cultural Trends* 30: £25; Telephone 01235 401000.

## McEwan up for top prize

THE BOOKER PRIZE winner Ian McEwan has been short-listed for the £95,000 Impac literary award, the world's richest literary prize.

McEwan, who won last year's Booker with his novel *Amsterdam*, now has his earlier *Enduring Love* among eight contenders for the fiction prize set up 13 years ago by management company Impac

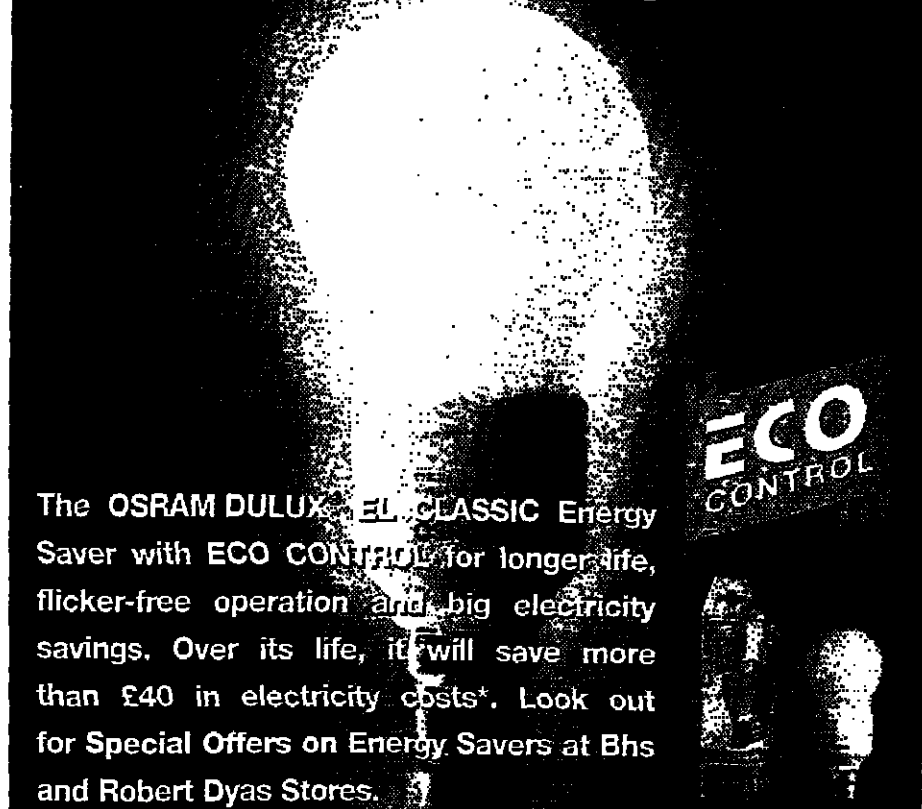
BY DAVID LISTER

and Dublin corporation. The list was selected from 100 books nominated by libraries in more than 50 countries.

For the first time a debut novel is listed. *Ingenious Pain*, by Bristol-born Andrew Miller who lives in Paris, is the story of the rise, fall and redemption of a man unable to feel pain.

Also on the list are *Quarantine* by Jim Crace which won the 1997 Whitbread Novel Award; *Underworld* by Don DeLillo; *The Ordinary Seaman* by Francisco Goldman; *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* by Haruki Murakami; *The Puttermoss Papers* by Cynthia Ozick; and *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink. The winner will be announced in Dublin on 17 May.

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# Murderer to get sex swap on the NHS

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

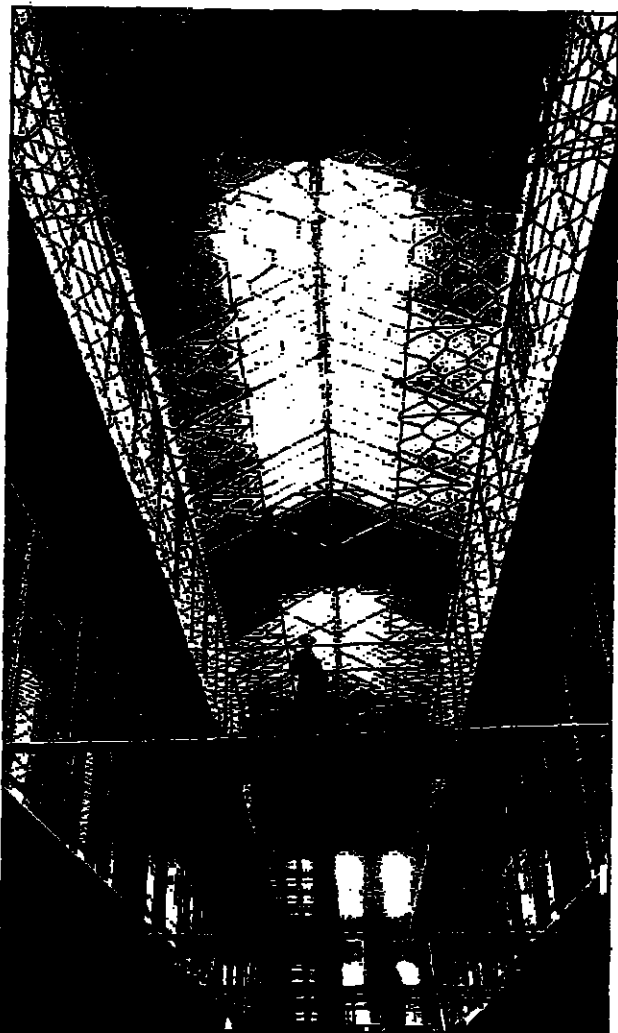
THE PRISON Service has given the go-ahead for six prisoners, including a murderer, a kidnapper and an armed robber, to undergo sex changes on the National Health Service. The decision follows a legal challenge by one of the prisoners, who has been fighting an eight-year battle to change his gender.

John Pilley, a kidnapper serving a life sentence, will become the first prisoner to undergo "gender reassignment surgery" when he has an orchidectomy in Leicester next month. Pilley, who is known as "Jane Anne", has had more than seven years of hormone-replacement treatment while in jail but took legal action after prison chiefs appeared to be blocking his demands for genital surgery. He argued that having given him treatment enabling him to develop breasts, it was unfair for the Prison Service to leave him in the limbo of being part-man and part-woman.

The Independent has learned that Treasury solicitors, representing the Prison Service, have been instructed not to continue contesting the case. Instead, Michael Longfield, the service's head of healthcare, has told officials at Hargey Prison, near Market Harborough, in Leicestershire, that Pilley can have his operation.

The orchidectomy, which costs around £11,000, is due to take place next month at Leicester Royal Infirmary. Following the operation, Pilley is likely to be transferred to Holloway women's prison in north London.

The decision will create a precedent for at least five other prisoners seeking sex-change operations and pursuing legal cases against the Prison Service, including Philip Taplin, Matthew Richardson, Douglas Wakefield and David Cross.



Douglas Wakefield hopes to be transferred to a women's jail such as Holloway (left)

The barrister and former Liberal Democrat MP Alex Carlisle, who campaigned for transsexual rights in parliament, said the decision was an "important step towards giving transsexuals proper civil liberties".

The Prison Service said yesterday that it was under an obligation to give prisoners the same access to medical care as other members of the public. It is now drawing up new guidelines for prison governors on how they should deal with transsexual inmates.

A spokeswoman said: "The general approach is that the prisoner should wait for release. It's not really a suitable environment to take such an irreversible decision. The problems arise with prisoners serving a long sentence."

Pilley, 46, who was sentenced to life in jail for the kidnapping of a taxi-driver, Linda Charlesworth, in 1981, is allowed to wear women's clothing while he is locked in his cell.



Transsexual David Cross, jailed for 17 years for armed robbery, is now known as Kelly Denise Cassidy and Leigh

lock-up at night and unlock in the morning. Pilley is a member of Gartree's therapeutic community, which includes other prisoners seeking sex changes, such as Philip Taplin and convicted killer Matthew Richardson, 42. Other transsexual prisoners are scattered around the jail system, often with little in the way of specialist support.

Douglas Wakefield makes life in Channings Wood Prison, in Devon, more bearable by decorating his cell with lace curtains and flowers. The double murderer has been diagnosed by a psychiatrist as having "gender identity disorientation". In letters from prison he has said: "Maleness has always been nothing less than an abhorrence to me - something to be threatened and intimidated by. I have grown to detest the body I live in."

Wakefield, who is allowed to wear women's ear-rings and has chosen to be called "Dee", was jailed for life at Leeds Crown Court in 1974 for murdering an uncle who had taunted him about his sexuality.

Four years later he strangled fellow prisoner Brian Peake with a shoelace, then stabbed and beat him to death in the psychiatric wing of Parkhurst jail on the Isle of Wight in Hampshire. He spent a record 1,200 days in solitary confinement after twice taking prison officers hostage and trying to kill one of them.

Now a model prisoner, he says that he could happily live the rest of his life behind bars, provided he was given a sex change and moved to a women's prison.

At Parkhurst, David Cross - now known as Kelly Denise Richards - is taking Androcur, the hormone drug cyproterone acetate, which reduces levels of testosterone.

Although transsexual prisoners such as Cross are terrified of stopping such treatment and reverting to men, they are aware that the prolonged use of such drugs carries a risk of liver failure. Cross, an armed robber

serving 17 years, is anxiously awaiting his orchidectomy.

Dr Russell Reid, a consultant psychiatrist who has advised Cross and other transsexual inmates, said that prison life made it very difficult for inmates to satisfy the necessary criteria before they could be given such a life-changing operation.

He said: "They must adjust successfully and live and work in their female role for two years before they can be considered for surgery. It is very difficult, though not impossible for them to fulfil that."

But Susan Marshall of Press for Change, a campaigning organisation which is seeking equal rights for people who have gender identity disorder, said that prisoners were entitled to medical help to change their sex.

"They are supposed to lose their liberty but they should not be further punished by removal of treatment for a recognised medical condition from which they are suffering," she said.

## Master conman slips out of jail

BY IAN BURRELL

FOR A master con man who had spent most of his life exploiting a wide variety of disguises, the feeble security of Ford Open Prison was never going to prove much of a challenge.

Sure enough, only two months into his six-year sentence, the notorious swindler Anthony Passmore walked straight out of the Sussex jail. He has not been seen for over a fortnight.

Unfortunately his escape came as news to the detectives who contacted Ford last week, hoping to interview Passmore, 53, about the missing spoils of a £6m fraud.

They also considered it a disaster. For the Islington-born con man is linked to Britain's most notorious crime gang, the north London-based Adams family.

Detectives had pursued him for a year before trapping him as he prepared to "sting" London investors for a further £12m by posing as an Irish bank director.

But Passmore proved too wily for officers at Ford, walking out of the prison, near Littlehampton, between 8am and 3pm on 24 February.

Detectives from the City of London police force contacted Ford to arrange an interview with Passmore about the £6m only to be told that he was on the loose.

A force spokesman said: "They were not happy to say the very least. We are hopping mad."

Last night embarrassed Prison Service officials were trying to explain why Passmore had been allowed such lax security conditions so early in his sentence.

A Prison Service spokesman said: "Open prisons are run on a basis of trust. Mr Passmore has obviously abused that trust and if he is recaptured he will be sent to a closed prison."

"He was sent to Ford after a rigorous risk-assessment. He failed to appear at a roll-check on the day in question and local police were informed, but he is still at large."

## Lords agree Jamaican girl's adoption in landmark ruling

BY JOHN ASTON

THE GRANDPARENTS of a Jamaican girl yesterday won the legal right to adopt her through a ground-breaking House of Lords ruling.

Despite strong Home Office opposition, five law lords unanimously decided that the needs of the child, now nearly 18, outweighed the need to maintain "an effective and consistent immigration policy".

The judgment is likely to make it easier for UK citizens to adopt children from abroad if it can be shown the move "safeguards and promotes the welfare of the child" throughout childhood, and the child's wishes and feelings have been properly taken into account.

"B", who cannot be named, left a background of poverty in Jamaica to stay with her grandparents, both UK citizens, in 1995 when aged 14.

In a written judgment, Lord Hoffmann, sitting with Lords Nicholls, Hope, Hutton and Millett, described how the girl's grandparents, who had emigrated to Britain nearly 40 years ago, decided to adopt B, with her mother's consent, to give her a better start in life.

Allowing an appeal against a

Court of Appeal ruling which prevented an adoption order, Lord Hoffman said: "In cases in which it appears to the judge that adoption would confer real benefits upon the child during its childhood, it is very unlikely that general considerations of 'maintaining an effective and consistent immigration policy' could justify the refusal of an order. The two kinds of consideration are hardly commensurable so as to be capable of being weighed in the balance against each other."

Lord Hoffmann described how the Home Office had ordered B to return to Jamaica, where her family lived "in a primitive concrete house without a toilet or electricity".

Her grandparents decided to adopt her as their own child. In October 1997, a High Court Family Division judge ruled in favour of adoption and said the welfare benefits to B "were so strong that immigration policy was insufficient to override them", said Lord Hoffmann.

The Court of Appeal disagreed and said High Court judge Mr Justice Sumner had failed to distinguish the advantages of adoption itself from those of B acquiring a right to live in the UK. Adoption would

have no advantages to the child, said the appeal judges. But yesterday Lord Hoffmann, with the four other law lords also agreeing, said the appeal judges had ignored "the considerable benefits" from adoption which B would have accrued during the remainder of her childhood.



Lord Hoffman: Benefits

## Land planted with GM crops may fall in value

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

SURVEYORS WARNED yesterday that farmers who plant genetically modified (GM) crops could see their land values fall, and that tenants of such land might face bills to make up the shortfall.

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) called for the creation of a land register through which potential buyers, and banks, could find out if and when GM crops had been planted or grown on a particular holding.

In a separate move, the Government announced that the independent advisory group on planting of GM crops will in-

vestigate the effects on British wildlife and biodiversity of commercial growing.

Lord Whitty, the environment minister, said that the remit of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (Acres) has been expanded, and a subgroup set up to examine biodiversity issues. "With these regulations in force, British wildlife species should be protected against effects from the commercial use of GM crops," he said in a Lords' written reply.

However, the RICS report, sent to the Government's Office of Science and Technology and other departments, warned that growing such crops might lower the value of the land. In the case of tenant farmers, a landlord could, in effect, sue for any shortfall in land value caused by the tenant growing GM crops.

Michael Chambers, director of the RICS's policy unit, said that if commercial growing goes ahead, it would require a permanent register of sites where GM crops were or had been. "It's very hard to see how it could be controlled once you grow on a widespread scale in the countryside," he added.

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# Inquiry over new findings on Woodward

LAWYERS WHO represented Louise Woodward in her Boston murder trial said yesterday that they will instigate a full scientific inquiry into fresh claims, made in a CBS television news programme at the weekend, that the child who had been in her care, Matthew Eappen, died from strangulation.

The announcement was made by the lawyers in Boston in response to a growing public furor about the strangulation theory. They promised they would be assembling their own experts to study the findings. Eventually an independent inquiry could be launched jointly with prosecutors, they said.

A weekly news show, *60 Minutes*, aired interviews with two doctors attached to the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles. Contradicting the prosecution case that Matthew had died from brain trauma caused by slamming of the head and violent shaking, they contended that he had instead been strangled. The strangling, they added, could have occurred up

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

to two days before his admission to hospital.

Now studying law in London, Ms Woodward was convicted of involuntary manslaughter after the judge in the case nullified an earlier jury verdict of second-degree murder. She returned to Britain last summer and in January settled a wrongful-death suit with Matthew's parents, Deborah and Sunil Eappen.

If her former lawyers conclude that the strangulation theory is credible, they could move for a new trial and the overturning of Ms Woodward's conviction. But they stressed yesterday that the final decision would have to be made by Ms Woodward herself. "Miss Woodward has always taken the course that would vindicate her and prove her innocent," Barry Scheck, one of the lawyers, said.

The CBS programme reported the findings of Dr Floyd Gilles, who had spent six months studying medical evidence from

the original trial. He concluded that bruising on the inside of Matthew's neck indicated strangulation, which would have impeded the flow of blood to his brain. His findings were supported in the programme by a colleague, Dr Marvin Nelson.

The claims quickly stirred controversy. A group of 70 doctors sent a searing open letter to CBS saying the network had been irresponsible to give air time to the two doctors and so cause new distress to the Eappens. They called the strangulation theory "preposterous".

A co-ordinator of the letter was Dr Carole Jenny of Brown University Medical School. "I was pretty mystified by how in the world people can come to a conclusion that ... overlooks the skull fracture, the subdural haemorrhages and all the other things this child has," she said.

CBS has defended the programme. Kevin Tedesco, a network spokesman, said: "Our doctors have seen the evidence first-hand. Those doctors who wrote the letter haven't".



Edward Stobart says that he could save over £2m by registering his company's lorries in Luxembourg

Ted Ditchburn/North News

## Lorries go off-shore to avoid tax

EDDIE STOBART, Britain's most famous lorry company, is to register up to half of its fleet abroad in protest at the sharp rise in vehicle tax announced in the Budget. The news came as it emerged hauliers are poised to launch a transport strike over rising costs.

The Carlisle-based company will register at least 100 lorries this year in either Luxembourg or Belgium. But Stobart said it

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

could move out half of its 800-strong fleet.

The move will allow the company to pay Vehicle Excise Duty of just £338 in Luxembourg or £276 in Belgium for its 40-tonne five-axle lorries. This compares with £5,750 in Britain, which the Chancellor increased from £3,210.

If Eddie Stobart takes advantage of the discrepancy and registers 400 vehicles abroad, the company will save over £2m a year.

The move is known as "flagging out" because it works on the same principle as shipowners who register their fleet with flags of convenience to take advantage of lower tax regimes.

Edward Stobart, chairman

and chief executive, said that he was making the move to register lorries abroad reluctantly and warned it could have a long-term harmful effect on vehicle safety in the UK.

"If you register them on the Continent and run them in the UK, the Ministry of Transport can't do anything with you. That will attract unsafe measures and people - though not Stobarts - will get away with a

lot of things that they can't do at the moment."

Mr Stobart said his move was in response to competition from European hauliers who take advantage of the tax discrepancies. "We have European fleets coming into the UK with full tanks of cheaper diesel and leaving with empty tanks, paying no tax to our Government. It is ludicrous and the Government is losing out."

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# FA buys Wembley stadium for £103m

THE FOOTBALL Association's hopes of hosting the World Cup in 2006 were given a massive boost yesterday when a consortium led by the FA sealed a deal to take control of Wembley stadium.

By PETER THAL LARSEN

State for Culture, Media and Sport, said: "The new Wembley is at the heart of our bid to secure a number of major international events including, of course, the 2006 World Cup. This is more excellent news for these campaigns."

Alec McGivern, England's 2006 campaign director, promised that the new Wembley would be "the finest stadium in the world".

Under the terms of the deal, Wembley is being sold to the English National Stadium Development Company - a consortium backed by the FA and partly funded with National Lottery money. The consortium plans to spend £200m on building the new stadium.

Bob Stubbs, the chief executive of the consortium, said the designs for the new stadium would be finalised in the summer and a planning application would be submitted in September. That would clear the way for demolition work to begin in September 2000.

Shareholders in Wembley plc, the private company which owns the stadium, yesterday voted overwhelmingly to sell the famous Twin Towers to the consortium for £103m. The vote marks the end of a tortuous, four-year process to close the sale. It also ended a last-ditch attempt by two private leisure companies and three dissident Wembley directors to renegotiate the agreement. A host of luminaries involved in England's World Cup bid welcomed the news. Sir Bobby Charlton, a member of England's 1966 World Cup-winning side, said: "The current Wembley was regarded as one of the wonders of the sporting world when it was built in the Twenties, and I am sure that is what we will think when the new stadium is unveiled."

Chris Smith, the Secretary of



Sir Bobby Charlton and Sir Geoff Hurst reliving World Cup glory at Wembley yesterday

John Voas

Wembley, which was completed in 1923, is a listed building and the consortium will have to convince the planning committee at Brent Council in north-west London - and National Heritage - that the new design is an improvement. Designs are being drawn up by a team of architects led by Sir Norman Foster.

Until the last moment, however, the sale was shrouded in controversy. Small shareholders who attended the extraordinary general meeting yesterday morning opposed the sale. However, they were overwhelmingly out-voted by several large fund managers, allowing the sale to be cleared with a 79 per cent majority.

The controversy follows a long-running campaign by three non-executive directors of Wembley - Peter Mead, Jarvis Astaire and Roger Brooke - to block the sale. The three, who argued that the deal underpinned the stadium, had encouraged rival leisure companies to make a bid for Wembley plc.

Both ENIC, the football investment group which controls 25 per cent of Glasgow Rangers, and SFX Entertainment, a US leisure giant, indicated they were willing to launch takeover bids for Wembley plc if the vote was postponed. However, they were overruled by the rest of Wembley's board - a decision which was ratified by the shareholders yesterday.

Last night, Mr Mead said small shareholders in Wembley had been "flooded" by the corporate equivalent of the union block vote. However, sources close to Wembley said any move to delay the meeting would have undermined the deal to sell the stadium. Under the terms of the agreement, the sale would fall through if it had not been completed by 15 March.

## Mink farmer admits cruelty

By KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A MINK FARMER whose animals were released by anti-fur activists, was yesterday fined after admitting a string of cruelty charges and breaches of welfare regulations.

Terence Smith was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £15,000 costs by magistrates at Lyndhurst in Hampshire. It is the first time a British fur factory farmer has been prosecuted for cruelty.

Oba Nsugbe, for the prosecution, told magistrates that members of the group Respect for Animals had carried out a three-month investigation into conditions at Crow Hill Top Farm near Burley in Hampshire, between September and November 1997.

They passed their evidence, which included video footage and photographs, to the RSPCA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who brought the case to court.

Mr Nsugbe said animal welfare officers from Hampshire County Council had been sent to the farm which was very dispirited. "Blocked drains were overflowing with mags and faeces and on that occasion they did see a number of injured mink," he said.

The court heard that some of the animals were so badly hurt that bones were protruding from infected wounds and others had to be put down.

Last July a group of unidentified animal activists released 6,000 of the farm's mink into the wild, causing mass hysteria among the local population and fears of an ecological disaster.

Robert Grey, for the defence, said the problems had begun after the farm was attacked. The damage to the cages meant the mink could attack each other and it was impossible to tell which family group they belonged to.

Smith, who trades under the name of T Smith (Mink) Ltd, refused to comment.

Lacy Clark, of the RSPCA, said the charity was pleased about the conviction but disappointed that Smith had not been banned from keeping mink in the future.

## void tax

lot of things that they can do at the moment." Mr Stobart said his was in response to competition from European hauliers to take advantage of the tax breaks. "We have been paying the tax for a long time and we are now in a position where we can pay it back. It is a very good thing to be able to do that."

## chers to bill for 'laptops

BY BEN ROSETH

Mr Stobart said his was in response to competition from European hauliers to take advantage of the tax breaks. "We have been paying the tax for a long time and we are now in a position where we can pay it back. It is a very good thing to be able to do that."

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## Tycoon who stole BCCI's £750m jailed

THE MAN who broke the Bank of Credit and Commerce International and was jailed for 14 years lost his appeal yesterday against conviction.

By KIM SENGUPTA

Gokal, 62, was in the dock yesterday as Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Latham and Mr Justice Coleman, rejected his appeal during a 90-minute hearing in London. The former businessman was convicted by a jury of conspiracy to defraud and conspiracy to account falsely, at the conclusion of a 122-day trial at the Old Bailey, costing £4.5m.

His sentence was the steepest of its kind to be handed out by a British court.

The trial judge, Mr Justice Buxton, said Gokal's actions had threatened the integrity of the entire international banking system. The judge added that Gokal was "an intelligent, sophisticated and unscrupulous man, who put the interests of yourself and your family before all else".

As well as his 14-year sen-

tence, Gokal was ordered to pay £2.5m out of his personal assets within two years, or face another three years in prison.

Gokal's counsel, Alan Jones QC, submitted that Gokal's convictions on both counts were "unsafe". The main grounds centred on the circumstances in which Gokal, who was arrested in Germany in 1994, was brought within this jurisdiction.

He claimed that the indictment against him should have been "stayed as an abuse of the process of the court".

But the judges ruled yesterday that this claim was "unfounded" and "without substance".

Gokal's other grounds, including submissions that the evidence of BCCI depositors was wrongly admitted and also that the trial judge's summing up was unfair towards him, were also rejected.

Lord Justice Rose, giving the ruling of the court, said that the prosecution case against Gokal of his dishonest participation in the two conspiracies was "overwhelming".

It was a highly-sophisticated fraud with "international consequences of great gravity" and Gokal was "at its heart", the judge said.

The court further ruled that the total prison sentence given to Gokal was "correct".



Gokal: Stiffest sentence of its kind ruled 'correct'

From the Director of 'The Nutty Professor' and 'Liar Liar'



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ROBIN WILLIAMS

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# Brief whiff of reality amid a lot of mucky farm business

AGRICULTURE QUESTIONS are rarely thrilling. For the sketch writer this particular parliamentary chore carries all the seductive allure of a pre-dawn milking on a rainy winter's day, though obviously without the mud on one's boots. Or the smell. Indeed, it is one of the peculiarities of this session that it is so detached from the physical facts of the countryside. Ministers talk of "transparent support structures", they trot over "discrepancies" and "CAF reform", they ponder the difficulties of "Common Agricultural Policy reform". But they hardly ever use a noun that still has earth attached to it. There

were references to "pork" at one point, and a faint whiff of livestock briefly penetrated the dolorous fragrance of ring-binders and registration dockets but the bureaucratic vapour soon closed in again. The most bucolic moment was the sight of Desmond Swayne charging into a supplementary about GM food with his nostrils flaring wildly. All he needed was a ring through his nose and the impression of an enraged bull would have been perfect. The minister was away, having been up all night trudging through the mire of Common Agricultural Policy reform. An agreement has apparently been concluded, which

seems a good enough excuse for a lie-in, but naturally MPs are wary. Tomorrow they will hear the details of this hard-won deal/ignoble capitulation (delete according to party prejudices). The rest of us will have to wait for Phil Archer to have one of those chunkily instructive chats with David before the full implications to sink in. In the meantime, with Elliot Morley standing in for his exhausted boss, we got the official headline: cheaper prices for consumers. Mr Morley is a kind of combine harvester when it comes to parliamentary questions; they go in the front and out of the boom at the back pours an even

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS  
SUTCLIFFE

stream of reassurances and processed statistics. If you want something a little more human in

manner, more redolent of a quiet natter over a five-barred gate, you have to wait for Jeff Rooker. He was positively huggable-mugger after a strong intervention from Ben Bradshaw on behalf of small abattoir owners - apparently faced with massive increases in inspection costs. I have to choose my words carefully, said Mr Rooker, "because of the lawyers and our friends across the water", but owners should wait to see what happened before panicking. He didn't quite lay his finger along his nose and wink but it wasn't far short. Mr Bradshaw looked unconvinced. The minister was even less plau-

sible on the Government's repeated claim that the experimental planting of GM plants only amounts to "two football pitches". The football pitch has clearly been chosen as a New Labour unit of measurement because it has the right demotic ring and delivers a low number. Suggestions that the acreage be described as one and a third polo pitches were dismissed and it was felt paraphrasing the area as 105 croquet lawns might be alarming. They'll have to think of something else, because Tory backbenchers have rumbled that the number is so low only because it is winter and nothing has been plant-

ed yet. In a few months, James Gray said, something more like 400 football pitches would be burgeoning with alien plant forms. Get ready for the golf course standard unit. The front bench is not exactly consistent on food prices either: trapped between its double constituency of producers and consumers. The reform package was apparently good news because it would lower prices but Mr Rooker later noted that prices for British pork had been rising. "That's a welcome trend", he said, "and we will do all we can to promote it". Vote Labour - and we'll put up the price of your Sunday roast.

# Education cash 'wasted on gimmicks'

GORDON BROWN'S failure to invest more money in education in Tuesday's Budget came under fire yesterday from all sides of the House.

David Willetts, the Conservative Education spokesman, led the attack, complaining that expenditure limits were essentially unchanged from those set previously.

But the Secretary of State for Education, David Blunkett rebutted the claims, saying low-income families could soon be able to buy computers at discount prices in a drive to bridge the gap between the "computer haves and have nots".

He added that the initiative was part of a £400m package announced in the Budget to encourage greater computer literacy and a £20m scheme was being set up to provide subsidised loans for teachers to buy computers. But, during yesterday's debate on Budget education spending, Mr Willetts said that the extra cash had already been outlined as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review in July 1998.

The £2,000 "gift" for every

EDUCATION  
BY SARAH SCHAEFFER  
Political Reporter

school to buy books were a "classic example", he said. The Government did not trust schools to operate their own budgets and instead was interested only in funding "gimmicks", he added. Some Labour backbenchers are worried it will be hard to persuade party members to support a 1p cut in the basic rate of income tax rather than spend money on health and education.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat Education spokesman, said instead of cutting the basic rate of income tax to 22p, an investment in education would have a "direct impact on educational standards" because of the link between poor education and poverty.

Mr Blunkett insisted there was a "crucial flaw" in this argument because the money was not part of a £19bn sum given to education last summer. "On top of that the Treasury have allocated an additional £561m this week," he said.

Mr Foster said his party welcomed extra money for books but suggested schools should have been allowed to decide how to spend the extra money themselves. He claimed helping teachers to obtain laptop computers would mean only a 4 per cent increase in the numbers with access to laptops, from 2.5 per cent.

Ian Pearson, the Labour MP for Dudley South expressed concern that road hauliers would suffer from the increased duty on fuel. In five to 10 years time, people would wonder why more money was not invested in cleaner fuel technology "rather than penalising our road haulage industry", he said.

Mr Pearson said: "We are spending £6.1bn as a Government on research and development - less than 2.5 per cent of that is going to the experimental development gap."

"If we are going to get better at turning inventions into innovations and commercially exploiting them, then we have really got to look at the main funding streams in Britain," Mr Pearson added.



The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott refuelling a taxi with compressed natural gas yesterday in Bombay. His visit to India, with a delegation of businessmen, aims to improve trade with India. Sebastian D'Souza

## Tories condemn Budget leaflet

FINANCE  
BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

PARLIAMENT'S FINANCIAL watchdog has been called on to investigate claims that the Government wasted taxpayers' money on misleading "propaganda" about the Budget.

The Tories lodged a formal complaint with Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, about more than a million leaflets issued by the Treasury summarising the tax changes.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, had wanted to send the leaflets to every one of Britain's 24 million households, but decided to issue just 1.25 million to Post Offices, libraries and universities after Treasury officials objected.

But Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, said that the leaflet was still a misuse of money because it gave a biased and inaccurate picture of the Budget.

In a letter to Sir John, who heads the National Audit Office, Mr Maude said that the leaflet omitted key measures that were likely to prove unpopular such as higher stamp duty, fuel taxes and alterations to national insurance contributions for the self-employed.

Information about the new children's tax credit did not say that it would be tapered for higher-rate taxpayers. Other parts of the leaflet contrasted the high interest rates of the Tories administration with today's levels.

Mr Maude said the leaflets should be independently scrutinised by Parliament. "Gordon Brown's leaflet takes Budget mis-selling to new levels of deception. It is littered with party political propaganda, omissions and irrelevances," he said.

"After the Chancellor's 'stealth Budget', the British are being bombarded with the stealth leaflet. It purports to be a factual summary of the Budget from Her Majesty's Treasury but in truth it is a disgrace to the traditions of impartiality of the Civil Service."

Mr Maude also called on Sir Andrew Turnbull, the permanent secretary at the Treasury, to investigate "this flagrant abuse of taxpayers' money".

The Tories yesterday also claimed that the Budget would hit pensioner couples hard with its scrapping of the married couples allowance (MCA).

Iain Duncan Smith, the Tory social security spokesman, said that the Chancellor had failed to publicise the fact that all pensioners from next year would lose the MCA.

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## Push-button voting on trial next year

ELECTORAL REFORM  
BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

ELECTRONIC VOTING could be introduced to Britain for the first time next year under radical plans announced by the Government yesterday to speed up election results.

Traditional pencil and ballot paper voting could be replaced by European-style computerised booths that allow electors to cast their vote at the touch of a button. The new system is set to be tested in the elections for London's Mayor and Assembly in May next year. Nick Raynsford, the Minister for London, announced in the House of Commons.

Mr Raynsford told MPs that he was looking into the possibility of using new systems to improve the efficiency of the voting process. In a written Parliamentary reply, Mr Raynsford revealed that the Department of the Environment,



Mr Raynsford: Aiming to improve efficiency

Transport and the Regions had yesterday invited tenders for the work in the *Tenders Electronic Daily* publication.

"This would enable votes in the first Greater London Authority elections to be electronically recorded and counted. The new authority will be modern, streamlined and efficient and we should work towards a voting system to match," Mr Raynsford said.

### Plea over bank account scam

DENNIS SKINNER, Labour MP for Bolton, urged the Government to "sort out" a loophole allowing crooks to move cash from someone else's bank account. He said a television inquiry had shown how easy it was to siphon money from accounts using the holder's name and account number.

### Odd couple

NICHOLAS SOAMES, former Tory armed forces minister, joined Tam Delyell, Labour MP for Louth, in criticising continued air strikes against Iraq without the authority of Parliament.

### Peer pressure

THE GOVERNMENT lost in the Lords as peers, during the detailed report stage of the Disability Rights Commission Bill, backed a Tory demand for the new Disability Rights

### THE HOUSE



Commission to have the right to advise not only the Government but also its agencies on the practical application of any law.

### Gut reaction

THE COMMONS suffered an upset when Lucy, David Blunkett's guide-dog, was sick on the carpet near the government frontbench during a speech by his opposition shadow, David Willetts. Liberal Democrat education spokesman Don Foster later referred to Lucy's behaviour in his contribution to the debate, saying he often felt a "sense of nausea" when Mr Willetts spoke. Mr Blunkett said Lucy was "fine".

The London elections will be more complex than normal polls, with voters facing a proportional system for mayor, single-member constituency assembly members and top-up assembly members.

As well as computer keypad voting booths, the Government is also considering introducing electronic counting machines to replace the current method of counting by hand. Both techniques are aimed at removing completely the need for recounts that often delay results in marginal seats for hours. If the measures work for London, they could be introduced to national elections.

However, Mr Raynsford stressed that no changes would be introduced unless they were rigorously tested first. "Our priority is to run a successful election on 4 May 2000 so we will be looking at systems which have proved extremely reliable in national or regional elections elsewhere," he said.

### Cost of logo 'only £26,000'

A CONTROVERSIAL new logo for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, described by critics as a mere "blob" will cost £26,000 rather than £79,000, as originally reported, the Secretary of State, Chris Smith said yesterday.

### Two weeks off

THE LEADER of the House of Commons, Margaret Beckett announced that the Commons will rise on Wednesday, 31 March for the Easter break, returning on Tuesday 13 April. The Lords rises on the same day but returns a day earlier on Monday, 12 April.

### Lockerbie cost

AN EXTRA £1m is being allocated for Scottish law and order, mainly to cover costs connected with holding a trial in the Netherlands of the

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Lockerbie bombing suspects, the Secretary of State for Scotland, Donald Dewar disclosed. Two hundred and seventy people were killed as a result of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet which crashed on to the market town of Lockerbie.

### Today's Agenda

Commons: 9.30am Backbench Business: Mental Health (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, Bus Fuel Duty (Exemptions) Bill, second reading, Short debate on administration of subsidy payments to farmers, Lords: Not sitting.



# Lord Sainsbury to head biotech team

**LORD SAINSBURY**, the minister at the centre of the recent controversy over genetically modified (GM) food, is to head a government team to promote GM food companies, *The Independent* has learned.

The Science minister will be joined by representatives of food and medical biotechnology companies, whose names have not yet been made public.

The initiative aims to boost

BY FRAN ABRAMS  
Westminster Correspondent

"clusters" of biotechnology companies that have sprung up in Oxford, Cambridge and Dundee.

Lord Sainsbury has major interests in companies developing the technology for GM foods. These interests are now in a blind trust and he has promised not to get involved in policy-making on GM food. But

he has already been criticised for leading a biotechnology trade mission to Korea and for sitting on a cabinet sub-committee dealing with the issue.

News of the initiative drew an angry reaction from environmental campaigners, including the Liberal Democrat Norman Baker, MP for Lewes.

Mr Baker said that the Government had given assurances that Lord Sainsbury would not

be involved in decisions or discussions on the subject. "Either he is involved and we have been lied to, or he is a lame duck chairman because he can't talk about these things. He should be replaced," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Trade and Industry said that the group would only deal "very remotely" with GM food issues. "The policy issues here are about promoting

industry within the cluster arrangement. It isn't about promoting GM foods," she said.

The group is to visit Cambridge, Oxford, Scotland and two US-based biotechnology clusters. It will also hold brainstorming meetings with industry, planning authorities, science park managers and universities. Officials from the Department of Trade and Industry will make information

gathering visits, and the team will publish a report.

Among the companies in the Cambridge biotechnology cluster is Axis Genetics, which is developing vaccines from plants. Its chief executive, Iain Cubitt, sat on the board of the Sainsbury Laboratory, which is financed by the Science minister's charity, the Gatsby Foundation.

Other firms that could be involved include Plant Breeding

International in Cambridge, which runs a number of test sites for GM crops, and the Scottish Crop Research Institute in Dundee.

The Science minister has been looking increasingly embattled as revelations about his role appear to contradict his statements on the issue. Lord Sainsbury, whose shareholding in the supermarket is in a blind trust, has also taken

charge of another government consultation to which the issue of GM food and crops is central.

The Government has asked the pollsters Mori to run a series of focus groups to canvas public opinion on GM crops, genetic testing and cloning.

Lord Sainsbury chaired a conference on the consultation in December and took part in a discussion on it in a cabinet committee earlier this month.

## Radical chic in constant revolution

**SONIA Rykiel**, the godmother of French fashion, showed her Autumn/Winter 2000 collection in Paris yesterday. Rykiel opened her first boutique in Paris on the Left Bank in 1968, the year of the student uprising. Even today she prides herself for having dressed the revolution, introducing easy, unstructured clothes that were sinuous and sexy and quintessentially French.

Her basic signature has changed little since then, and her flagship store remains a landmark on the fashionable boulevard Saint-Germain, only a stone's throw away from the original boutique.

Although her hallmark style hasn't changed, her gift is to update it every season, so it is always fresh and of the moment.

Yesterday's show was particularly fine. She updated her great knitwear with Mongolian lamb collars that kissed the models' faces as they sauntered down the runway. Indeed, lips featured throughout the collection - in a typical witty twist, diamanté lipstick prints were appliquéd onto skinny sweaters - and even appeared in the form of a bumbag.

BY REBECCA LOWTHORPE  
in Paris

Rykiel's clothes are predominantly black; they are also typically French. But this time around, she introduced more vivid colour to her collection: flashes of magenta, purple and orange lifted the proceedings, best seen gracing metallic spike-heeled boots.

For evening, the little black dress came out in all its guises and to suit all shapes and sizes of women - Rykiel is a mistress of this particular craft. In devoré or matt crepe jersey, they were slashed to the navel, split to the thigh and either super-sexy or the height of Parisian elegance.

When the designer appeared at the end of her show, flanked by models, she reached out to her audience like the queen of France. She is extraordinary. Aged almost 70 and still a working mother, her hair is as flame-red as it ever was, her make-up as dramatic, and her clothes as desirable. She is perhaps the best advertisement of them all.

Is the supermodel era over? Review, page 8



Models at Thierry Mugler's 1999/2000 Autumn/Winter show yesterday wearing headpieces in velvet and satin, left, and lace

Reuters

## Child death inquiry reopens

BY CHRIS HAMILTON

THE BODY of one of two "Babies in the Wood" children who died 29 years ago has been exhumed by detectives thought to be investigating paedophile involvement in their deaths.

Susan Blatchford, 11, vanished with her 12-year-old school friend Gary Hankin from their homes at Enfield, north London, in March 1970. Their bodies were found in a local copse 11 weeks later.

The cause of their deaths was never established, but police and the parents are convinced they were murdered.

The case was re-opened in 1994, after newspaper cuttings and photographs of young girls thought to be the victims of sex attacks were found at a house in the Home Counties, and again in 1996. Scotland Yard said yesterday that officers had dug up Susan's body from St James's Church in Enfield last week "in connection with a murder inquiry in 1970". A spokeswoman added: "There was a forensic examination. No arrests have been made."

Susan's mother Muriel Blatchford, now 78, was said to be "absolutely devastated" at the exhumation.

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# Council tax rises 'twice inflation'

By PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT was accused of taxing Britain "by stealth" yesterday when a new survey claimed that council taxes across the country would rise by more than twice the rate of inflation.

The Tories attempted to take the shine off the Budget announced by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, on Tuesday by seizing on a report which found that councils in England and Wales were about to put up bills by 6.9 per cent.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountants (CIPFA) found that an average band D home would face the rise when bills for 1999-2000 drop through letterboxes next month.

The survey found wide variations around the country, with Liverpool the most expensive at £1,171 for an average home and Westminster the cheapest at £350.

Following a survey of 92 per cent of all authorities, the CIPFA found that millions of average households would be paying an extra £51 a year. However, the average figures hide some huge differences between individual authorities which have been caused by historical levels of cuts and grant aid.

## 1999-2000 PREDICTIONS

Average Band D Tax for Homes worth between  
£58,000 to £88,000, by local authority

Most expensive 10	Least expensive 10
Liverpool £1,171	Kensington and Chelsea £580
Redcar and Cleveland £1,032	Cardiff £572
North Lincolnshire £997	Torfaen £563
Bristol £992	Powys £542
Manchester £987	Pembrokeshire £536
Salford £980	Corp of London £532
Hartlepool £978	Vale of Glamorgan £530
Newcastle upon Tyne £977	Newport £530
Wirral £977	Wandsworth £373
Knowsley £970	Westminster 350

The largest increase in real terms will be in South Cambridgeshire, where householders face a rise of £106, or 17 per cent, on average. By contrast, Hackney, Islington, Greenwich and even Liverpool will have bills frozen. Councils claim that their budgets will have to go up by an average of 5.3 per cent, but a smaller rise in government grant will necessitate more money being made up by local taxpayers.

Richard Ottaway, the Tory spokesman on local government, said that rural areas would be hardest hit because the funding formula had been "fiddled" to shift funds from Tory areas to urban Labour heartlands.

"These latest figures show that the Government is imposing yet another stealth tax on hard-working people. Council

taxes on ordinary families are more than £100 a year higher than when Labour came to power - a stealth tax of £2 a week," he said.

"John Prescott [Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions] likes to pretend that this year's settlement was the most generous ever. But he hasn't given councils enough money to fund the raft of expensive promises which Labour made. Now the British people have to pick up the bill."

However, Mr Prescott said that similar predictions about council tax rises last year had not come true. Bills had been forecast to go up by 11 or 12 per cent, but turned out to be something over 8 per cent, he said.

Councils had received their biggest funding increase ever for the coming year, including

record money for education, he said. "People are now predicting council tax rises. I don't get the information from councils until the 17th [of March]. I must wait for the information. Until councils come to their decisions, you can't make the assessment," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

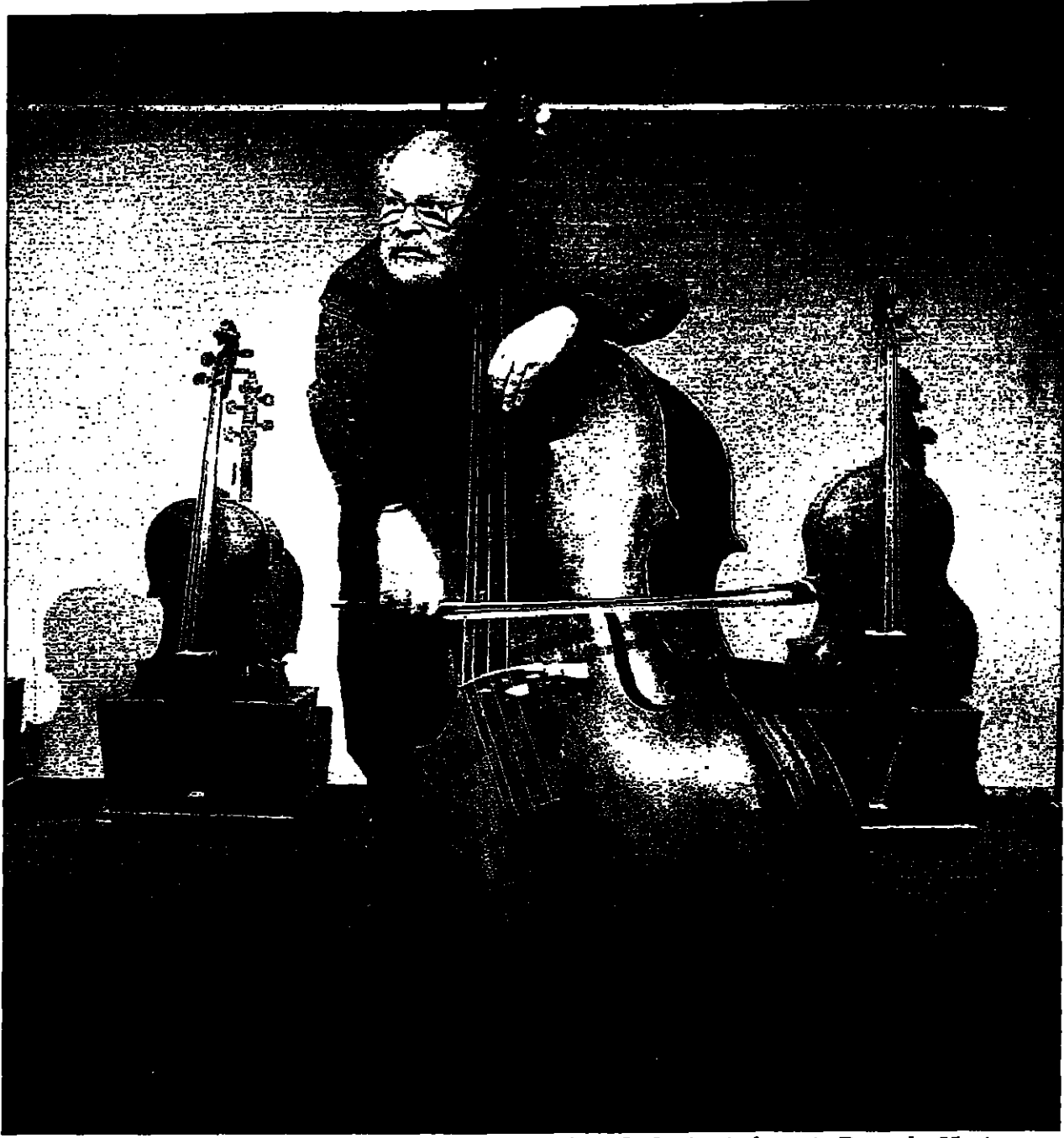
Mr Prescott has warned that boroughs which push up bills by more than 4.5 per cent will face budget capping, but he will not apply "crude and universal" caps as the previous government did.

The Liberal Democrat local government spokesman, Paul Burstow, said councils faced a "serious shortfall" in their budgets which they would have to make up to ensure that education and social services were properly funded.

"Once again, the Government have used spin and false accounting to hide a Treasury-led attack on our public services, leaving council bosses to take the blame for Gordon Brown's spending decisions."

The worst hit areas will be in East Anglia, where bills will go up by 9.6 per cent, Wales (14.8 per cent), the West Midlands (9.1 per cent) and the South-east (8.8 per cent).

The lowest rises will be in the North and North-west, both of which will see taxes go up by 7.3 per cent.



Tom Martin, former principal bassist with the London Symphony Orchestra, trying out a Domenico Montagnana double bass, made around 1747, which is expected to fetch up to £350,000 at Sotheby's on Tuesday Tom Pilon

## Maxwell cleared of contempt of court

KEVIN MAXWELL, son of the disgraced media tycoon Robert Maxwell, was yesterday cleared of allegations of contempt of court over his refusal to be interrogated by inspectors investigating the Mirror Group. The decision, by a High Court judge, represents a considerable victory for Mr Maxwell after an eight-year saga of ongoing inquiries.

Yesterday Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Scott said that the

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

potential burden the questioning could place on Mr Maxwell was "at risk of going beyond that which an unrepresented individual can reasonably be required to accept". Sir Richard said the inspectors - appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry - should keep their questions to a minimum and tell Mr Maxwell in advance what they wanted to ask him about.

If this was done, Mr Maxwell would have no further excuse for refusing to answer. Later, Mr Maxwell, eldest son of the former owner of Mirror Group Newspapers, emerged from court saying he thought the decision was a victory for common sense. "Unless they change their procedures, there is no obligation on me to answer questions," he said. "I have always said I would an-

swer if they created a set of fair procedures and a fair regime. Now the court has decided to protect me as an individual."

Two inspectors, Sir Roger Thomas and Raymond Turner, were appointed by the DTI in June 1992 to investigate the affairs of MGN, with particular regard to the £800m flotation of the company in 1991.

The investigation was suspended when Mr Maxwell and others stood trial on charges brought by the Serious Fraud Office over his father's business dealings. It resumed after he was acquitted on all counts.

A spokesman for the DTI said after yesterday's ruling that it was now hoping for a speedy conclusion to the investigation. "We are hopeful that this decision will have broken the impasse and that the inspectors will now be able to question Mr Maxwell," he said.

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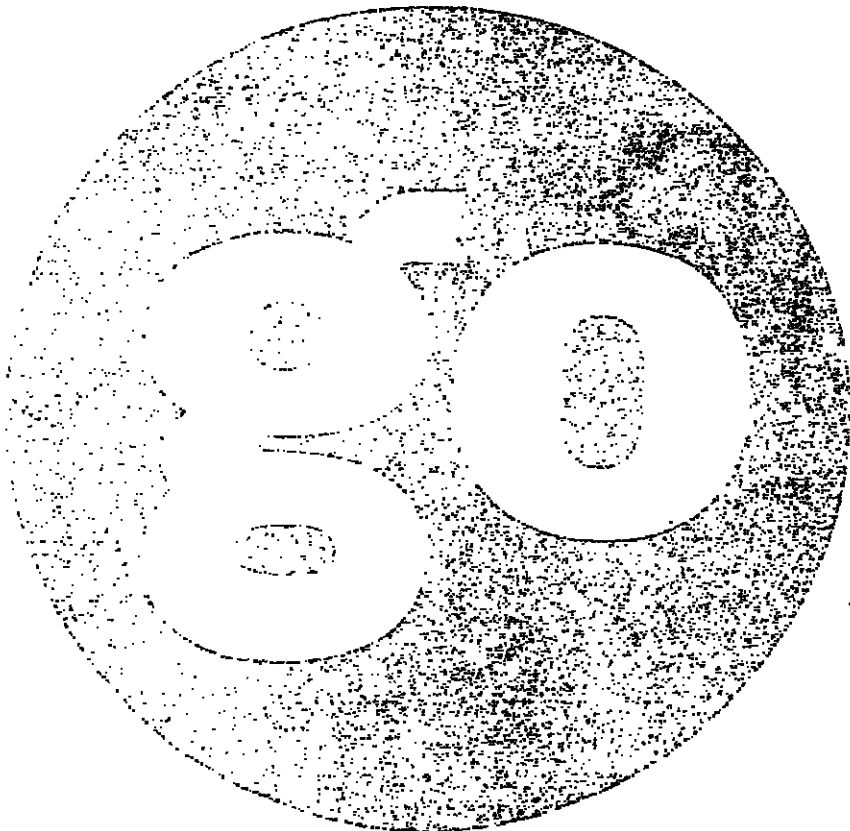
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# Hillary walks out on Bill! Perhaps...

WHO SAID it was all over? President Bill Clinton may have survived his impeachment ordeal, and Monica Lewinsky may have left for England - if only temporarily - but wait: Hillary Clinton has decided enough is enough with all this infidelity and is ready to leave President... perhaps.

For a brief moment yesterday it seemed as if the big puzzle of the First Couple's marriage had been resolved.

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

One tabloid newspaper, one television cable channel and one well-known Internet sleuth were all reporting it: the First Lady had finally read the riot act to her husband. She could not stand being with him.

The details were compelling. Remember how last week the Clintons returned from a skiing weekend in Utah a day early?

That was because of a huge row that ended with Mrs Clinton storming out of their vacation accommodation demanding that her staff pack her bags.

And remember the excuse given for her deciding not to accompany her husband this week to Central America - the back strain that was exacerbated by skiing? Baloney. The truth now: Hillary Clinton had at last done what most wives would have

done some time ago: she had blown her stack.

"CHILLARY", exclaimed the front page of yesterday's New York Post newspaper. The bust-up, it informed readers, was precipitated by the post-Monica claims from Juanita Broadrick. An Arkansas businesswoman, she says she was raped 21 years ago in Arkansas by the then attorney-general Clinton.

The Post offered this quote, direct from the First Lady: "I

don't want to be in the same room with him, let alone the same bed". It then attributed the quote to a "TV news report". Nobody yesterday could sensibly judge the veracity of the story. The White House rubbished it, but possibly it is true.

However, there were reasons why no other news organisation touched it, including the sourcing of the information. There was not any. The television news report said that those

explosive words from the lips of Mrs Clinton had in fact been relayed by "sources close" to her.

The television station in question, meanwhile, turned out to be Fox News Channel, the fledgling all-news-all-of-the-time endeavour launched by Rupert Murdoch, who happens to own the New York Post. The Internet sleuth is Matt Drudge, who also offers a version of the story on his now infamous web page. And where does Mr Drudge appear

regularly as a commentator? The Fox News Channel.

Behind this story is a furious battle between the three 24-hour news channels, Fox, MSNBC - owned by NBC, Microsoft - and CNN. All have seen their ratings nosedive since the end of Montecarlo and the impeachment trial. Fox, however, is seen by some as best placed to regain its footing and for one reason - it is unabashedly conservative and anti-Clinton.

Just this week, Fox unveiled a \$4m (£2.5m) promotion. On Monday, meanwhile, it received heartening news. For the first time, it had overtaken MSNBC in the daily viewership figures. If Fox sees the chance to slip past its rival in the battle for households, what better story than this to give it a turbo-boost? And who can prove them wrong? "Hillary and Bill Deeply in Love Again". Now that would be a story.

Deborah Orr, Review, page 5

## Pope discusses morality with Iranian leader

MOHAMMAD KHATAMI, the Iranian President, capped a ground-breaking visit to Europe yesterday with a private audience with the Pope.

The two leaders, clad in opposing black and cream robes, met for half an hour in the pontiff's private studio. A Vatican statement described the talks as an "important and promising" contribution to dialogue between Christianity and Islam.

President Khatami, a politically moderate Shia Muslim, told the Pope he hoped for the victory of monotheism, ethics and morality. He later met the Vatican Secretary of State, Angelo Sodano, who raised the issue of human rights in Iran. The Vatican said the two men also discussed the situation of Christians and Muslims in the Middle East as a whole. Mr Khatami is also leader of the 55-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

During yesterday's unprecedented meeting about a hundred Iranian dissidents staged a noisy protest in a street near St Peter's, chanting "Khatami, terrorist". Despite security precautions, protesters managed to hurl an egg filled with red paint at the car in which President Khatami was travelling.

At the end of his visit to the Vatican, Mr Khatami presented his host with a silk wall-hanging, a book of Islamic verse and

BY FRANCES KENNEDY  
in Rome

six videos of a popular Iranian television series which described the tribulations of Christians persecuted by the Romans in what is now Iran.

The Pope, who, aides say, hardly ever watches television, gave Mr Khatami a bronze relief depicting the apostles Peter and Paul.

Mr Khatami used his visit to appeal to Western nations to treat Iran as an international equal and to dispel its image as an intolerant country sympathetic to anti-Western terrorists. He is also seeking support for Iran's lagging economy, and signed accords with Italy covering co-operation, foreign investment and the fight against the drugs trade. The President held talks with business leaders, including the head of Italy's energy giant, ENI, which recently signed a big oil deal with Tehran.

His broader goals struck an obvious chord with the Pope, who wants to promote greater collaboration between the great monotheistic faiths.

Italy's Foreign Minister, Lamberto Dini, who is seeking a strategic bridging role for Italy, said that the visit had been "an exceptionally important step in relations not only between Iran and Italy but Iran and Europe".



The Pope with Iran's President, Mohammad Khatami, in Rome yesterday. AFP

## Nato welcomes its former foes

THE LATEST chapter in the undoing of the Cold War is to be enacted today in Independence, Missouri, at the Harry Truman memorial library.

Foreign ministers of the three new members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation - the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland - will deposit documents ratifying their countries' acceptance of the treaty terms with the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. It will mark their formal accession to the alliance - and their protection under the mutual security clause they so coveted during the 40-year stand-off between East and West.

The key section of the treaty - Article 5 - says "an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all".

The State Department says the article comes into force the moment the foreign ministers hand over their countries' instruments of ratification, even though full military integration will take years.

The documents themselves will ultimately be deposited in the National Archive in Washington.

The choice of Independence and the Truman Library as the venue for the formal accession of the first post-Cold War Nato members was the personal wish of Ms Albright. Tru-

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Independence, Missouri

man was president when the US presided over the creation of Nato and then masterminded it through a Congress reluctant to endorse military involvement overseas.

His speech at the signing of the original treaty - on 4 April 1949 - and that of his secretary of state, Dean Acheson, are lodged at the Independence library.

The State Department says the three new Nato states appreciate the historical significance of the venue and wanted to join Nato formally as soon as possible after ratifying the treaty and meeting the basic military requirements. Today's ceremony thus meets the interests and aspirations of all the parties.

In recent weeks, however, there have been rumblings of discontent from some of the new member states' Western backers. Their feeling is that a landmark of 20th century history, and one of President Bill Clinton's few foreign-policy triumphs, is being secreted away from public view. They complain that it is being deliberately separated from next month's festivities in Washington, which will both mark the 50th anniversary of Nato and set its future course.

A senior State Department official denied that there was

any ulterior motive for separating the two occasions.

The Czechs, Poles and Hungarians, he said, wanted to be able to participate as full members in the planned discussions about Nato's future, which would be easier if they were already full members.

He offered no reason why the ceremony could not have been held, for instance, a day before the main gathering, but still clearly within its framework; nor did he explain why it was not held in the vicinity of the White House, where the foreign ministers of the first 12 members signed the original treaty.

For the suspicious, there is a one-word explanation: Russia. For Russia, the expansion of Nato is a bitter pill.

But Russia, as a Nato "partner", will be one of 44 countries represented in Washington at next month's commemoration of Nato's 50th anniversary, an event billed by US diplomats as "charting the way for a larger, more flexible alliance in the 21st century".

While the intention may be to demonstrate to Russia that its security is not threatened by a larger Nato, for some there is a paradox.

The inclusiveness of Nato's birthday party will have been made possible by today's ceremony in Independence, which perpetuates the very division that Nato expansion was intended to banish.

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# Lafontaine goes into a wilderness

HE IS gone but he will be back. Oskar Lafontaine, the physicist who had the confidence to lecture Europe's leading central bankers on banking, bowed out of the centre stage of German politics, convinced that he had been right all along.

After his four months as Finance Minister of Europe's biggest economy, his legacy is that of rising unemployment and falling output.

Other Socialists might stop for a moment to ponder why such things were happening, but not "Oskar". He will go on, for the rest of his life, blaming the gnomes of Frankfurt, international currency speculators, and "unfair" - meaning "too low" - taxes in other European Union countries.

We know, because Mr Lafontaine has been here before. In 1990 he was the champion of

By IMRE KARACS  
in Berlin

the Social Democrats against a poorly regarded Helmut Kohl. He lost, but it took some doing, forfeiting as he did the biggest lead a party had ever enjoyed in German electoral history.

But Mr Lafontaine was right, as he is happy to tell anyone who will care to listen. He had criticised Mr Kohl's formula for bringing the freshly free East into the Federal Republic. The costs, he pointed out, would be enormous. "Nonsense" retorted Mr Kohl as he proceeded to promise "blooming landscapes" in the East within a few short years.

Mr Lafontaine was right, but no one in those heady days wanted to listen to a chubby Cassandra. He lost because he was seen to be carping about

the German nation's most glorious moment since the end of the Second World War. He was the man, it appeared, who was opposing re-unification.

That year had been a terrible one for Mr Lafontaine. While campaigning for those elections, he had been stabbed in the neck by a deranged woman. The ambulances took a long time coming, as the chancellor-candidate lay in a pool of his own blood. He very nearly died.

Still, the plucky little man from Saarbrücken - lampooned for his looks and haughty demeanour as "Bonaparte of the Saar" - soldiered on, digging his political grave deeper every step of the way.

When the dust eventually settled on those elections, Mr Lafontaine retreated to his home region, seeking solace

from his role as the Prime Minister of Germany's least significant Land. He fell into a depression - for a long time sipping more of his beloved Burgundy than he perhaps should have - and faded from the national picture. But then, slowly, he clawed his way back.

On the leftist firebrand circuit, there is no one quite like him. Even in those dark days, Mr Lafontaine could wrap a crowd around his fingers in an instant. But surely, the people said, he would not come back to national politics.

He did, pouring into a vacuum at the top of the party in 1995. In the interim, other Social Democrats had had a go against Mr Kohl and been burnt. Mr Lafontaine felt ready for the second round.

It did not happen, because of a certain Gerhard Schröder,



Mr Lafontaine (left) with Mr Schröder last year. The Chancellor seemed stunned last night by the resignation

who many in the party felt did not have much to offer, except the prospect of victory.

And so the comrades

weighed up the pros and cons: Mr Lafontaine would be good for socialism, they thought, but only if he were elected. By this

time last year, it was clear that Oskar's sex appeal was limited to a narrow section of hardcore SPD supporters.

Their votes alone could not

dislodge Mr Kohl. It must have been bitterly disappointing for Mr Lafontaine to hear this kind of advice from his closest friends. Confronted with Mr Schröder's electoral pull, he stepped out of the ring.

The rest might have been history, except that Mr Lafontaine refused to draw the correct conclusions.

He treated the party's electoral triumph as a personal victory. Now was his chance to implement the kind of socialist vision he had been dreaming up over the past decade, aided by his wife Christa Müller, an arch-Keynesian economist.

Thus did Germany end up with a nightmare ticket of a centrist Chancellor lacking any

substance, and his leftist deputy having too much of the wrong kind.

He did, however, render one useful service. As chairman of the party, he kept leftist critics at bay. With him gone, there is no one to deflect the wrath of the party, forever suspicious of Mr Schröder's "New Centre". And Mr Schröder has nowhere to hide.

The Chancellor looked stunned last night as he presided over the shortest press conference of his life. Today the party leadership is to choose Mr Lafontaine's successors, for it is unlikely that any one person can fill those two vacancies - at the head of the party and the finance ministry.

Mr Schröder will now try to grab the chairmanship of the party. But whether he succeeds or not, it will be a lot harder from now on to keep the rank and file in line.

## Relief spreads across Europe at resignation

By STEPHEN CASTLE  
in Brussels

RARELY HAS one politician made such an impact in Europe in such a short time, and rarely has one gained such notoriety in so many quarters.

Oskar Lafontaine, dubbed by one British tabloid as the "most dangerous man in Europe", sparked the biggest ideological debate over the continent's economic policy in years. But his achievements are questionable and his departure leaves the German government in disarray, only two weeks before a vital summit, called to resolve the seemingly intractable problems of Europe's financing. German prestige has taken a battering at a crucial time, halfway through both its EU and Group of Seven presidencies. It is also a key moment in the EU's history, the Agenda 2000 discussions to expand and reform the Union.

In the corridors of Brussels, not many tears will be shed for an outspoken figure who brought controversy to the usually drab discussions of the finance ministers' council, Ecofin. One diplomat summed up his contribution last night, saying simply: "He was a disaster".

Even as Europe was launching the new single currency, Mr Lafontaine paid little heed to the sensitivities of the exercise. Indeed tact and diplomacy were in rather short supply.

Despite his position as Germany's Finance Minister, he failed to turn up to the launch party of the Euro on New Year's Eve on the basis that he had already booked an overseas holiday. When he was rumoured to be in the running for the presidency of the European Commission he failed to quash the stories. But it was on policy that Mr Lafontaine's presence was most widely felt.

Adversaries included the British Chancellor, Gordon Brown, who fell foul of Mr Lafontaine's desire to harmonise business taxes, and remove the effects of "social dumping" - where countries give preferential tax concessions to foreign companies.

When Mr Brown let it be known that he would veto Mr Lafontaine's plans, the German minister turned up the



The Sun's inflammatory front page

rhetoric, causing a feeding frenzy in the British press. The row even affected British opinion towards the Euro, leading British ministers to make urgent appeals to Mr Lafontaine to desist from using the word "harmonisation".

"I can't talk about this, Mr Lafontaine quipped. 'I'll have to call it the 'H' word'."

This was only part of an economic agenda which presented difficulties for the UK. The changes of government in Germany and Italy last year, both with sharp moves to the left, produced a new push for a more Keynesian approach to jobs and growth.

In any debate over economic policy, Mr Lafontaine would be on the side of those pushing for growth and job creation, rather than stressing the need for structural reform of Europe's economies. But his arguments were a challenge to Brussels too, because he was regularly at odds with the rules which the euro is meant to operate under: the Growth and Stability Pact.

In a typically robust mood Mr Lafontaine recently took his argument to the European Parliament, making the case that successful economies are not always based on low borrowing or balanced budgets, as the EU decreed. Look at Ronald Reagan's economic policy, he told MEPs: "he ran up enormous debts - of the type that would have made the guardians of the Growth and Stability Pact tear out their hair - combined with massive tax cuts."

"I don't think the European Commission would have let Reagan loose on the streets."

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SPORTS GAME TOYS R US



# Blair condemns 'historic' CAP reform as farmers celebrate

German eyes on British rebate

BY KATHERINE BUTLER  
in Brussels  
AND COLIN BROWN  
AND PAUL WAUGH  
in London

THE AGRICULTURE Minister Nick Brown faced humiliation last night after the deal he reached on the Common Agricultural Policy was rejected by Tony Blair as "not good enough".

The overhaul of the 37-year-old system for supporting Europe's farmers will lead to cuts in subsidies on beef, dairy and cereals production, with dairy quotas phased out by 2006.

Mr Brown, who has to make a statement on the deal to MPs today in the Commons, said after the all-night negotiations that it would save the average British family up to £70 a year. "The deal struck is good for taxpayers, farmers, consumers and the countryside," he said.

But even before the Agriculture Minister had returned to Britain, the deal was criticised by Mr Blair who told the Cabinet it did not go far enough, and Britain would continue pressing for deeper cuts in the cost of the CAP.

Farmers across Europe celebrated that they had at last avoided more draconian cuts. The historic agreement to reform the European Union's 37-year-old farm policy had begun to unravel last night with the realisation in London and other capitals that the deal would save no money.

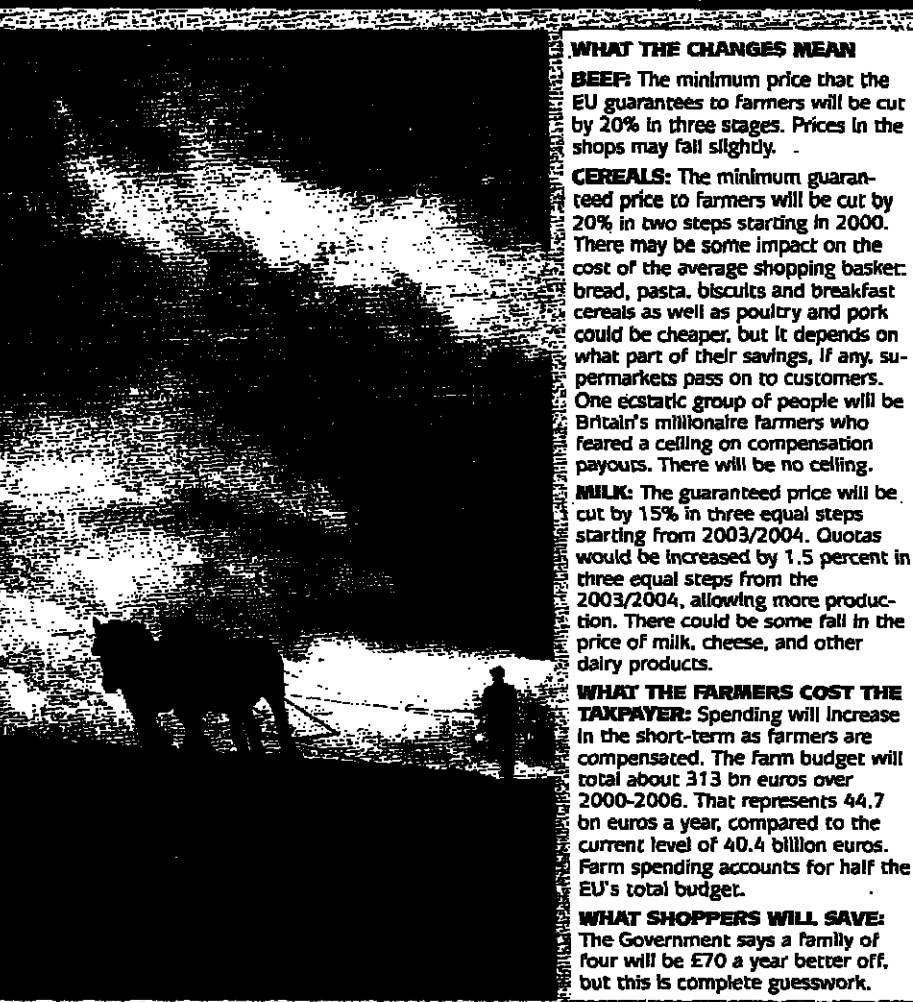
Tony Blair appeared to pull the rug from under the deal by suggesting the cuts did not go far enough. The reforms still have to be agreed by heads of government at their Berlin summit on 25 March in the context of an overall deal on reforming the EU's finances. "This does represent progress but it is not satisfactory in our view," Mr Blair said.

French displeasure also grew during the day. The Agriculture Minister, Jean Glavany, accused the German EU presidency of assuming the negotiations were over when they were not. The EU Agriculture Commissioner, Franz Fischler, co-broker of the compromise,

## WHERE THE FARMERS ARE, WHAT THEY GET NOW AND HOW THAT WILL CHANGE

	AREA FARMED '000s of hectares	NUMBER OF FARMS	PEOPLE EMPLOYED	CAP PAYMENTS average per farm, £	CAP PAYMENTS % of GNP
UK	16,149	235,000	511,000	10,312	0.39
BELGIUM	1,371	71,000	104,000	11,529	0.59
DENMARK	2,727	69,000	102,000	12,587	0.99
GERMANY	17,335	567,000	1,046,000	6,703	0.31
GREECE	3,465	774,000	784,000	2,328	2.87
SPAIN	30,281	1,278,000	1,065,000	2,362	1.03
FRANCE	30,215	735,000	1,072,000	7,918	0.74
IRELAND	4,325	153,000	146,000	7,736	3.86
ITALY	14,685	2,482,000	1,332,000	1,330	0.51
LUXEMBOURG	126	3,000	4,000	4,379	0.13
NETHERLANDS	1,969	113,000	247,000	10,161	0.56
AUSTRIA	3,432	222,000	269,000	7,884	0.39
PORTUGAL	3,927	451,000	541,000	957	0.79
FINLAND	2,192	101,000	161,000	1,552	0.42
SWEDEN	3,060	89,000	130,000	3,658	0.26

SOURCE: EUROSTAT



### WHAT THE CHANGES MEAN

**BEEF:** The minimum price that the EU guarantees to farmers will be cut by 20% in three stages. Prices in the shops may fall slightly.

**CEREALS:** The minimum guaranteed price to farmers will be cut by 20% in two steps starting in 2000. There may be some impact on the cost of the average shopping basket: bread, pasta, biscuits and breakfast cereals as well as poultry and pork could be cheaper, but it depends on what part of their savings, if any, supermarkets pass on to customers. One ecstatic group of people will be Britain's millionaire farmers who feared a ceiling on compensation payouts. There will be no ceiling.

**MILK:** The guaranteed price will be cut by 15% in three equal steps starting from 2003/2004. Quotas would be increased by 1.5 percent in three equal steps from the 2003/2004, allowing more production. There could be some fall in the price of milk, cheese, and other dairy products.

**WHAT THE FARMERS COST THE TAXPAYER:** Spending will increase in the short-term as farmers are compensated. The farm budget will total about 313 bn euros over 2000-2006. That represents 44.7 bn euros a year, compared to the current level of 40.4 billion euros. Farm spending accounts for half the EU's total budget.

**WHAT SHOPPERS WILL SAVE:** The Government says a family of four will be £70 a year better off, but this is complete guesswork.

said although it was "less ambitious" than the Commission's initial proposals, it represented "the most radical reform since the CAP was first established in the early 1960s".

The key plank of any deal was intended to be a cut in the artificially guaranteed price of commodities by up to 30 percent. But the ministers backed away from such a steep set of cuts, opting for a maximum price cut of 20 per cent for beef and cereals and a 15-per-cent cut in milk, which will be delayed by three years.

The hoped-for effect is a long-term cut in the burden of supporting agriculture, and fewer milk lakes and beef

mountains. By bringing EU policy into line with the demands of Europe's trading partners and the World Trade Organisation it will also allow big producers to compete in world markets, where prices are much lower.

But the big flaw is that it will cost taxpayers an extra £10n a year over the next seven years - on top of the £50bn a year the CAP already costs - because farmers will have to be compensated for the price cuts with generous direct-income support payments. And because the cuts and payment limits have been diluted in the final compromise it is not sure the trade benefits of paying for

reform can be fully achieved.

Critics were particularly dismayed at the failure to include any national co-financing of the CAP, as Germany had sought, or any limits on annual cash amounts individual farmers can pocket. Britain's millionaire grain barons, paid hundreds of thousands of pounds a year simply for owning vast tracts of cereal land, appeared to have escaped the threat of a £100,000 ceiling on the amount they cash in EU subsidy cheques each year, after which subsidies would begin to tail off.

The Farm Minister, Nick Brown, welcomed this development. "I am pleased the cell-

ing is gone. We wanted to see changes in the method of paying farmers which did not disproportionately penalise the United Kingdom." But by last night Brussels officials said the means for discriminating between income support for deserving small farmers and the rich elite who cream off most of the subsidies could still be added to the final package.

In contrast to the noises of dissent from London, in Brussels Britain was claiming victory for forcing Germany and France to accept some reform of the dairy sector, although Mr Brown admitted disappointment at a three-year delay in implementing the agreed 15-per-cent cut in the guaranteed milk price.

The trigger for reform was

the need to find big budget savings to finance EU expansion into Eastern Europe in the next few years.

Downing Street said the deal would increase spending by 2006, not stabilise it, as the Germans had intended.

Mr Brown was still in Brussels when Mr Blair told ministers that the deal was unacceptable.

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BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
in Brussels  
AND PAUL WAUGH  
in London

BRITAIN'S European Union budget rebate came under renewed pressure yesterday, with Germany insisting that the subject must be debated at the forthcoming summit in Berlin.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, will have additional difficulties in defending the continuation of Britain's rebate, after EU agricultural ministers yesterday agreed on a deal which failed to make expected budgetary savings. The deal on farm spending will cost around £5bn more than the amount specified at last month's special summit near Bonn.

A paper from the German EU presidency identifies the £2bn annual rebate as a central item of discussion at the meeting in two weeks' time. The paper argues that circumstances have changed since it was negotiated in 1984 by the then prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, at Fontainebleau.

The German document says the "key for financing the UK budget abatement", could be "adjusted", adding that new mechanisms should be put in place to take account of potential benefits to Britain of a decline in agriculture spending. It states that the definition of expenditure covered by the rebate should be "amended" to exempt the costs of the EU's enlargement to the east.

In the Government's strongest statement on the issue to date, Mr Blair's official spokesman said there was no question of the rebate being conceded. "The abatement is non-negotiable, as all our partners know. We have made it clear that the abatement is justified, whatever the effects of enlargement."

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# Congo orders diplomats out

THE SIX diplomats and officials from Britain and the US arrested in Congo over allegations of spying were due to fly out yesterday after President Laurent Kabila's government ordered their expulsion.

The six were expected to go to Zambia after the Congolese Interior Minister, Gaetan Kakudji, demanded that they leave on the first scheduled flight out of the capital Kinshasa because they "had infiltrated a military base".

In the increasingly acrimonious row, the Foreign Office said it was "considering its position" on whether any Congolese diplomats face expulsion in retaliation. London has denied the men were engaged in espionage. It insists their role was purely to organise contingency plans for an evacuation of British nationals in Congo which is rapidly sinking into an escalating civil war.

The expulsion of the Britons

BY KIM SENGUPTA

and the American also means a major disruption in contingency plans for the evacuation of the 150 or so British nationals in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The British ambassador, Douglas Scrutton, is expected to hold consultations with other foreign embassies in Kinshasa.

Mr Kadulji claimed that the men "violated the Vienna Convention by introducing themselves illegally into the grounds of the Ndolo military base". The Congolese have accused one of the Foreign Office men, Gregor Lusty, of being the "guide" of the enterprise. But as an accredited diplomat he was released; the others were kept under house arrest in Kinshasa.

The Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd reiterated yesterday: "These people are not spies. Their purpose was wholly innocent." He has already telephoned President Kabila to

complain about the "totally unjustifiable action".

Mr Lusty was Third Secretary at the British embassy in Kinshasa. The American was on secondment from the US State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Also arrested were two Ministry of Defence officials, a consular official and a bodyguard to Mr Scrutton. It has been claimed that the MoD officials were part of the Rapid Reaction Force, who would be responsible for evacuation but who could also be used for intelligence gathering.

As President Kabila's regime faces increasing pressure from rebel forces, there is increasing paranoia about alleged Western conspiracies, with accusations of foreign mercenaries helping the rebels. Anti-Western feelings are growing. Last week's massacre of eight Western tourists in Uganda was carried out by a Hutu militia loosely allied to President Kabila.



Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary (left), and his French counterpart Hubert Vedrine being welcomed to the presidential palace in Abidjan by the Ivory Coast Ivorian President, Henri Konan Bédié, during the first Anglo-French visit of its kind to West Africa

AFP

## New entente cordiale as Africa is unscrambled

SETTING A century and a half of colonial rivalry behind them, Britain and France yesterday launched what they billed as an historic new partnership with Africa, aimed at bringing prosperity and peace to the continent.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and his French opposite number Hubert Vedrine met the presidents of Ivory Coast and Ghana, flagship countries of former French and British Africa respectively, before opening a conference of the British and French ambassadors to a dozen African countries.

London and Paris no longer sought to divide up the continent, Mr Vedrine told the meeting, jointly staged in the Ghanaian and Ivory Coast capitals, Accra and Abidjan. "There are no more exclusive spheres of influence, nor any forbidden areas."

Mr Cook said that the two countries acting together could help Africa to boost trade, reduce its debt, and find solutions to its conflicts.

The realities of the modern world are rendering obsolete history's barriers and narrow calculations of national advantage. Both countries have a younger generation of diplomats with no memory of colonial or early post-colonial times.

In Accra, Ghana's military college may exude the spit and polish of Sandhurst, but French companies thrive in the former British colony, and a favourite expatriate hangout in the Ghanaian capital is neither a French brasserie nor an English bar - but an Irish pub.

If there is to be a European foreign policy, as sketched out last December when British and French leaders first agreed to end their rivalry in Africa, the notion would lose all credibility should the two countries continue to do battle with each other through their former colonies.

And then there are the feelings of the Africans themselves. Why in a world of dissolving frontiers, should Ivory Coast be forced to use Paris as its gateway to the world? Or, as Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, the Ghanaian President, said yesterday: "We detest the differentiation between Anglophone and Francophone Africa."

But differentiation will not vanish easily. Once independence became inevitable after the Second World War, Britain's approach was to prepare its African colonies for self-government and membership of the Commonwealth.

France, however, aimed for assimilation: the absorption of educated Africans into French society. "We left and they didn't," a senior British diplomat said. "We disengaged in the 1960s, but they've waited until the 1980s and 1990s."

France has 6,000 soldiers permanently stationed in Africa, while 14 of its former colonies use the CFA franc, pegged to the French franc and thus to the euro. These are all weapons in the war to

BY RUPERT CORNWELL  
in Abidjan

preserve French as a world language against the onslaught of English.

But old French certainties have been shaken by the catastrophes in Rwanda and the former Zaire (although both Francophone, they are former Belgian, not French, colonies).

In both cases France was on the wrong side, seen as a protector of the reviled President Mobutu in Zaire, and accused of abetting the Hutu genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994. The latter was said to have been a devastating experience for Mr Vedrine, who was President Mitterrand's top aide.

But if French policies are changing, they will none the less be operated by many of the people who ran the old policies, and they will be subject to the same jealousies.

France tried to use Britain's recent estrangement from Nigeria to boost its influence in what is potentially the dominant West African power. It also tried - with greater success - to show countries such as



An 1885 cartoon of Bismarck carving up Africa

AKG

Ghana and Kenya what French cultural delights they had missed on account of their links with Britain. The Maison Française in Nairobi - a temple to Parisian chic if ever there were one - is just the latest and most visible evidence of this enterprise.

For its part, Britain has been unabashedly cock-a-hoop about pinching a £130m dock renovation contract in Abidjan from under the noses of French companies long accustomed to having everything their own way in Ivory Coast. "Political allies maybe," sniffed a foreign diplomat in Nigeria, "but they'll be commercial competitors to the end."

Quick results, in short, are unlikely. The two-day gathering of ambassadors is to settle the procedural nuts and bolts of co-operation - it is not about aid or joint peacekeeping initiatives in the Congo, Sierra Leone and other crisis spots in Africa.

Indeed, to make it so might merely raise the spectre of neo-colonialism. As the Accra newspaper *The Graphic* asked this week: "Is this a strategy to re-colonise Ghana and Ivory Coast and strengthen colonial structures?" In modern Africa, old fears as well as old rivalries, die hard.

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# Peking tightens security in Tibet

TWO MONKS have been detained in Lhasa for daring to shout pro-independence slogans to mark the 40th anniversary of the Tibetan uprising which forced the Dalai Lama into exile.

A strict security regime remained in force throughout China's Himalayan region yesterday, as Peking dismissed pleas from the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader that dialogue was the only way to resolve the Tibet issue.

Reports from Lhasa said that on Wednesday, the day of the anniversary, two monks in their late twenties shouted slogans in the Barkhor, the spiritual centre of the Tibetan capital, near the Jokhang temple. Police pounced, arresting one man immediately, and detaining the other as he attempted to escape. Riot police, vehicles and dogs appeared half an hour later.

The London-based Free Tibet Campaign spoke to witnesses who said the Jokhang had been closed for "cleaning" and watchers had been posted in the area. Monks in the monasteries of Ganden, Drepung and Sera were prevented from leaving, the group said.

Peking yesterday renewed its verbal assault on the Dalai Lama, with China's Foreign Ministry spokesman saying he continued "stubbornly" to push for independence and was "creating obstacles" to contact with Peking. "He has never stopped activities aimed at splitting the motherland," Zhu Bangzao said.

The harsh propaganda contrasted sharply with a dignified

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

and heartfelt speech by the Dalai Lama to mark the anniversary of the uprising against Chinese rule. He confirmed that informal channels of contact with Peking "through private persons and semi-officials" had suddenly closed last year.

"Late last autumn, without any obvious reason, there was a noticeable hardening of the Chinese position on dialogue and their attitude towards me. This abrupt change was accompanied by a new round of intensified repression in Tibet," he said.

Before China turned its back on dialogue, Peking seemed ready to moderate its position on Tibet. President Jiang Zemin spoke openly of dialogue during President Bill Clinton's state visit last June. The Dalai Lama's aides even mooted the idea of a spiritual pilgrimage to China.

Yesterday, the Dalai Lama again stated that he was seeking only "genuine autonomy". "I do not seek independence for Tibet... A just and fair solution to the issue of Tibet will enable me to give full assurance that I will use my moral authority to persuade the Tibetans not to seek separation," he said. But he added that "the Chinese leadership is sometimes hindered by its own suspicions".

It is widely believed that China now has no real interest in opening a dialogue with the Dalai Lama, and its current policy is to contain Tibet until the exiled 67-year-old leader dies.



An Axi tribe elder carrying her grandchild in You Zha Di village, in the Yunnan province of China, at the Lunar New Year festivities. The Axi are part of the Yi, one of the minority groups who make up 6 per cent of China's 1.2 billion population

## China to let public watch trials

BY TERESA POOLE

CHINA'S COURTS are to make more trials open to the public to give mainland justice greater transparency. The Supreme Court said trials should be publicised in advance and verdicts issued in closed courtrooms would be subject to retrial.

Human rights organisations will be closely monitoring how this order is implemented. Trials deemed to involve issues of "national security" will not be open, and it is unlikely that hearings involving dissidents will allow uninvited guests. Under existing arrangements, China often claims a trial has been held "in public", when the reality is that the room is peopled only by carefully selected government officials.

A carefully controlled opening of the courts started last year in Peking, when the city's Number One Intermediate People's Court opened to the public and also broadcast some non-sensitive cases live on television. Other courts around the country followed suit.

Under the new order, publicised in yesterday's Chinese newspapers, the lowest of the three tiers of courts must always be open unless the case involves state secrets, juvenile delinquency, personal privacy, divorce or commercial secrets.

The public's right to know remains curtailed, however. Even in open trials, Chinese journalists will need permission to attend. The Independent was permitted to watch a trial last year, but access by foreigners is still hard to arrange.

In the criminal trials of dissidents last year, the new right to a lawyer and adequate notice of the trial date proved worthless. One dissident's lawyer was detained, and another dissident was given just three days' notice of his appearance.

## Pandas get VIP suites in Hong Kong

TWO GIANT pandas, An An and Jia Jia, touched down in Hong Kong from mainland China yesterday to be whisked off to unprecedented luxury at what is described as the Ocean Park Panda Hotel. The complex is a specially built, 25.5m panda "habitat" with separate "his" and "her" bedrooms, lush vegetation, electronic temperature control and - believe it or not - a sliding roof for when the weather becomes temperate.

In typical Chinese style, the gift of the pandas to Hong Kong has strong political overtones. They were offered by Peking as part of the celebratory package to mark the end of British colonial rule.

This endangered species, which survives only in China,

BY STEPHEN VINES  
in Hong Kong

has long been used by the government in Peking to cement political relations and to reward so-called "old friends".

In the past, panda gifts have had an uncanny knack of coinciding with the political demise of their recipients. Edward Heath got his just before losing a general election. Richard Nixon's pandas arrived alongside the Watergate scandal.

Hong Kong's head of government, Tung Chee-hwa, will be hoping that the panda curse does not blight his administration - although An An and Jia Jia are arriving just as Hong Kong lumbers into one of its deepest recessions.

The pandas are expected to do their bit for species survival while in Hong Kong by mating. Whether the five-star accommodation will induce these notoriously difficult creatures to breed remains to be seen.

Garry Marvin, the author of a book called *Zoo Culture*, described the lavish panda home as "the architecture of guilt". He told a Hong Kong newspaper that although a lot of money had been spent, the environment is not really suitable for wild animals and has been designed to reflect human attitudes towards animals, rather than anything else.

An An and Jia Jia will be kept under wraps on arrival and will only go on public display in two months' time.



One of the pandas donated by China

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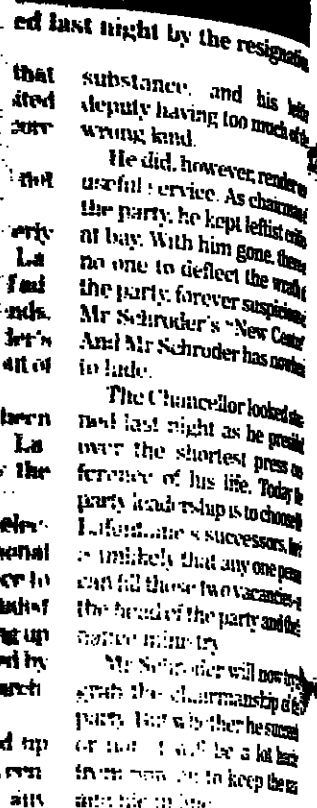
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# A fancy price for a household name

THERE MIGHT already have been an American version of the same thing, but as far as Britain is concerned, the concept of a unit trust was invented by a man called Ian Fairbairn sometime before the Second World War and originally sold through a company called Mutual and General. This was the precursor of the present M&G Group.

Despite some ups and downs, and what in recent years has been an alarmingly poor investment performance against many of its peers, M&G remains today the most widely recognised household name in unit trusts. Whether such brand awareness justifies the very full price of £1.9bn Prudential has agreed to pay for it is another matter.

The Pru's Sir Peter Davies is forking out a whopping \$5.3 times earnings, or about 10 per cent of funds under management. Using the second yardstick as a measure, this looks expensive against the 3 per cent Merrill Lynch paid last year for Mercury Asset Management.

M&G's investment performance has been nothing to write home about of late either, but it has looked positively sparkling against that of M&G, whose flagship (nom)



## OUTLOOK

Recovery fund has fallen 8 per cent in value in the last year alone. A recent survey by Bloomberg Money found that few independent financial advisers - traditionally a big source of sales for M&G - were prepared to recommend M&G to clients right now.

Michael McIntock, managing director, claims to have changed the investment approach at M&G quite radically over the past two years, so that there are now trusts for all corners, from trackers to bonds and traditional "value" funds. It is more than possible, therefore, that M&G's present reputation for poor value lags the reality. Even so, the Pru has a hill to climb in persuad-

ing the City it has not overpaid.

The price justification lies principally in three things. The first is that M&G, unlike MAM, is primarily a higher-margin retail fund manager and can therefore expect to command a better price. Martyn Arbib's Perpetual, for instance, trades at 11 per cent of funds under management, and that's with no bid premium in the price at all.

The second is scarcity value - there aren't many independent fund management groups of size left to buy. And the third is the enhanced value the Pru might extract by passing M&G through its own distribution channels, and via the greater marketing spend the Pru will be able to put behind M&G's products.

No one questions the Pru's need to diversify in financial services and add new products. To some extent, it already has. As demand for traditional life products has fallen away, the Pru has been active in getting its fingers into a number of different pies. When the price of buying a building society, or newly converted bank, slipped away from him, Sir Peter set up Egg instead as a way of taking the Pru into the deposit and retail banking market.

With unit trusts, PEPs and other forms of retail fund management, he's going the acquisition route. The strategy seems fine, but the price, given the very limited cost savings the Pru plans to extract from the takeover, seems a fancy one.

## Super Dow

SO IT LOOKS like Abby Cohen is going to be right after all. "Superbull" Cohen, chief investment strategist at Goldman Sachs, caused much merriment among the stock market bears last autumn, when, at the height of the market turmoil, she predicted that the Dow could hit 10,000 within a year. Ms Cohen has had plenty of good market calls in her time, but this is the one she is likely to be remembered for.

Six months on, with the Dow storming to yet another record high, it's the gloom-and-doom merchants who have been left with egg on their face. Ms Cohen, in contrast, has been fully vindicated. If anything, her predictions are now looking a little on the cautious side.

So the great Wall Street bull market rolls on apace. Or does it? The Dow Jones Industrial Average, to

give the index its full name, is far from representative of the US equity market as a whole. It consists of just 30 stocks, many of which, as the name suggests, are at the heartland of traditional US industry.

Other US stocks, particularly smaller companies, are faring less well. The Russell 2000 index of small-cap stocks, for example, is languishing almost 20 per cent below the high it hit in the spring of 1998.

And among the bigger boys, the Dow Jones Transport Average is trading more than 10 per cent below its 1998 peak. Internet stocks, too, are beginning to fall out of favour. Amazon.com, once the market's darling, is now around 25 per cent off its highs.

In other words, the Dow gives a quite misleading impression of what is happening to US equities more generally. Nearly all stock prices have recovered markedly from last autumn's wobble, but the bulk of the market by number, if not value, remains subdued.

The same cannot be said for the rest of the US economy. Judging by yesterday's retail sales figures, the boom continues apace, with no

sign of a let-up. The consequence of this is that eventually inflation will pick up again in the US - no economy can withstand such an acceleration in the pace of spending without generating some price pressures somewhere. Any resurgence in inflation is bound, by prompting a rise in short-term interest rates, to put the brakes on the Dow's recent breathtaking pace of growth.

Unfortunately, predicting that eventually there will be a prolonged setback in the Dow is the easy bit. Much more difficult is to pinpoint the timing and depth of any such correction. In the meantime, it is hard to disagree with the seemingly infallible Ms Cohen that the Dow bull has got a little bit longer to run yet.

## Electric defence

MICHAEL STODDART, chairman of Electra Investment Trust, has stirred the pot and come up with a really quite decent defence against 3i's unwanted £1.2bn bid.

For Mr Stoddart, this takeover battle is about more than just money. Electra is very much his

own brainchild. He has invested much of his life's work in this company, which was founded in 1973. Over the years, Electra has contained some fabulous investments.

It has always irked him that 3i manages to trade at a premium to assets, while his own baby languishes at a chunky discount. Over the years, this difference has gnawed at his soul. When 3i made its surprise bid in January, it therefore seemed more like an insult than an offer.

So he is desperate to see the invader off. Net assets have been valued at 915p a share and there's to be a tender offer to buy back 40 per cent of the trust's capital. You never really know what a venture capitalist trust is worth, since its investments are largely unquoted. One person's guess is as good as another's. But if 3i is prepared to pay 705p in paper and cash, it is a racing certainty that it is worth quite a lot more.

The judgement investors have to make is whether 786p a share for 40 per cent of their holding, plus their remaining holding in the highly geared ramp, is worth more than 705p for the whole. The market is right to say that it is.

# A £30bn merger to shatter the cosy world of French banking

**News Analysis:** BNP's bid for two of its rivals has broken the taboo on hostile takeovers in France. If it goes through, anything could happen

IN FRANCE, they do these things differently. Or they used to.

This week's hostile takeover bid by France's second-largest bank, Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP), for the country's fourth and fifth-biggest banks has left the French government and financial world gasping for breath. If the £36bn three-way merger goes ahead - and that must still be open to doubt - it would be the largest financial transaction in French history and the second largest in the history of world banking.

Overnight, it would give the French banking industry - traditionally weakened by moderate size and government interference - one of the largest private banking groups in the world. The new bank would be the largest in Euroland and the third largest in the EU.

The starting offer by BNP - as if NatWest and Barclays had agreed to merge and Lloyds TSB stepped in to buy both - shattered several French taboos at one stroke. There was no consultation between the top brass of the companies (as there had been when the target banks, Société Générale and Paribas, agreed amicably to join forces last month). There was no consultation with the government, which is now threatening to intervene. There was no consultation with the powerful banking unions.

To this extent, the proposed merger is an example of the march of tougher Anglo-Saxon attitudes through the cosy and corporatist world of French business. This is the first hostile takeover bid in the French banking industry but it is cer-

tainly not the first in France in recent years. It is also a further example of how the coming of the euro, and the lowering of barriers to financial services in the EU, are forcing the restructuring and rationalisation of the European banking sector.

Looked at another way, however, there is something more classically French about BNP's approach and its motives. The BNP director-general, Michel Pébereau, seems to be more interested in size and empire-building for its own sake than rationalisation or efficiency or shareholder value.

He promises to create a French bank of global scale, which would be capable of competing successfully in Euroland and the world. Economies of scale, however, would mostly be found by merging the three banks' computer networks and possibly their headquarters.

There would be no closure of high street banks, even though BNP and Société Générale branches stand side by side in small towns all over France. Paribas is a commercial bank but also has regional and local offices which would, it is promised, remain unscathed. There would be no enforced redundancies.

Mr Pébereau, 58, is not an entrepreneur in the Anglo-Saxon sense. He is an archetypal French bureaucrat and business manager: a high graduate of the ENA, elite finishing school for civil servants, a former *chef de cabinet* at the finance ministry.

His curriculum vitae is sim-



Michel Pébereau (left), director-general of BNP, arriving in London on Wednesday with the chief operating officer, Baudouin Prot. BNP's offer is the first hostile bid in the French banking industry

ilar to those of other ENA graduates who brought such misery to French state-owned enterprises, such as Elf and Crédit Lyonnais in the 1980s and early 1990s.

His declared motives - the creation of a French banking champion of global importance - are the same as those which drove Crédit Lyonnais to a series of grandiose schemes and breathtaking losses, for which the French taxpayer is still footing the bill.

Unlike that unhappy dirigiste experiment, the proposed Gallic banking giant would be privately owned and would be placing private capital at risk. The root problem with Crédit Lyonnais - a French version of the Savings and Loans scandal in America - was that the bank's executives were allowed, or even encouraged, to speculate with public or publicly guaranteed funds.

The main driving force behind the double BNP bid is France's most successful private financial institution, the insurance group AXA - the second largest insurance company in

the world and the new sponsor of the FA Cup.

Claude Bébér, President of AXA, which owns a large chunk of both BNP and Paribas, is said to see the new super-bank as the vehicle that can drive French capitalism into the 21st century. Mr Bébér, who is a more Anglo-Saxon type of businessman, expects to be riding in the back-seat of this limousine, calling at least some of the routes and destinations.

Despite his civil service background, it is Mr Pébereau who is taking the bigger risk. If he fails, he is likely to lose his job. His four previous attempts to take over smaller French banks have failed.

The double bid for the other banks - it would be an "association" of equals, he claims, not a takeover - gives Mr Pébereau the satisfaction of scrambling the plans of the Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn. The finance ministry had, in the traditional corporatist fashion, warmly welcomed the Paribas-SG merger, which left BNP in the cold. Mr Strauss-

Kahn seemed to be doing little to help BNP in its ambition to take control of part of Crédit Lyonnais when it is finally privatised later this year.

Now, Mr Strauss-Kahn, the most Blairist and reconstructed of French socialists, faces a dilemma. At one level, the BNP proposals offer him just what successive French governments have wanted: a French bank capable of playing with the world's big boys and promoting France's wider commercial interests.

But the manner of Mr Pébereau's bid suggests that the putative giant - Société de Banque de Paris (SBP) is the working title - might break free once and for all from government influence on the banking sector. Mr Strauss-Kahn might welcome that in theory but is likely to be more doubtful about the implications in practice.

The creation of such a giant also reduces the government's options for the privatisation of Crédit Lyonnais and might make some form of foreign stake in the recuperating, state-owned bank inevitable. Worse, it might have started a free-for-all in which large, foreign banks come looking for a wider share of the spoils, including, if Mr Pébereau fails, BNP itself. Once the taboo on hostile takeovers has been broken, anything could happen.

The signs are that the French government will do everything in its power to block the proposed merger. If so, the battle will be a bloody and instructive one, pitting the finance ministry and the Banque de France against France's second biggest bank and - in AXA - its most successful financial institution.

That should show how much Colbertian power to intervene in the private economy the French government retains in this global, market-driven age.

# French meet their Waterloo over Eurostar

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

FRANCE'S STATE-owned railway may have met its Waterloo. SNCF and the Belgian state operator SNCB are surrendering key functions in the running of Eurostar, the international passenger rail service, to a new company based at the London train station named after Wellington's famous military victory.

Eurostar Group will be run by a board of directors from the three operating railways, and headed by Hamish Taylor, the managing director of Eurostar (UK), who will become its chief executive.

The group said the catalyst for the move had been the award of the management contract for Eurostar (UK), the private sector British operating arm, to InterCapital and Regional Rail (ICRR), a consortium of SNCF, SNCB, British Airways and National Express.

Last week Eurostar said it had increased revenues by 29 per cent in 1998 following a cost-cutting programme and better marketing.

Mr Taylor said: "If we wish to continue this excellent progress we must remove the internal barriers that operating as three

separate companies inevitably create."

Eurostar Group said the new structure would allow greater efficiencies, faster decision making and would eliminate duplication - or even triplcation - of activities and costs.

Under the new system, a number of key functions - commercial, budgets, co-ordination, corporate communications, legal services and IT systems - will be run from Waterloo on behalf of the three railways. But production, ancillary revenue, sales and personnel will remain the domains of each company.

David Azema, the chairman of Eurostar Group, said: "It will not be dominated by any of the three countries involved but presents an opportunity to enhance this cosmopolitan experience and create a unique public/private sector, pan-European business model."

Eurostar (UK) last week announced it had cut its annual losses from £135m to £90m and forecast it would break even on target in 2005, five years before the ICRR franchise expires.

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	One Year Variable Rate Bond (Rate 1)	One Year Variable Rate Bond (Rate 2)	One Year Variable Rate Bond (Rate 3)
Annual Interest	5.95	5.95	4.75
Monthly Interest	5.90	5.75	4.50

**Monthly Interest**

	Monthly Interest	Monthly Interest	Monthly Interest
£10,000 - £25,000	5.77	5.62	4.60
£25,000 - £50,000	5.77	5.62	4.60
£50,000 - £75,000	5.68	5.52	4.42
£75,000 - £100,000	5.61	5.47	4.38

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3	London TSB	83
4	HSBC Holdings	83
5	Chase Manhattan	75
6	UBS	71
7	Bank One	66
8	Wells Fargo	63
9	Bank Of Tokyo-Mitsubishi	56
10	First Union	54
11	SWF/SG/Paribas combined	50
12	Credit Suisse	46
13	Barclays	45
14	NatWest	38
15	Santitono	31
16	Abney National	30
17	Hallifax	30
18	Bank of Scotland	19
19	Royal Bank of Scotland	18
20	Wachovia	17
21	Hong Seng Bank	17
22	PNB Bank	17
23	Fuji Bank	17
24	Société Générale	16
25	Paribas	15
26	Korcyo	15

Source: Datastream

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# US consumers can't save us from global recession for ever

LOS ANGELES - How long can the American consumer continue to save the world from global recession? At the recent Davos meeting, the US Vice President Al Gore, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and his deputy Larry Summers all made the point that the US could not continue to be the main source of consumption in the world. Other countries had to pick up the baton.

On Wednesday Robert Rubin said it again. "This is not," he said, referring to the imbalance between growth in the US and the rest of the world, "a long-term healthy situation. To have a healthy global economy over a sustained period of time, all the major parts need to be healthy." He still expected the US to have solid growth this year, but was concerned about the prospect for 2000 and beyond. Europe and Japan had to pump up domestic demand.

Eventually they may - more of that in a moment - but meanwhile how long can Americans continue to go on boosting spending? Here, on Rodeo Drive, the epicentre of West Coast American consumerism, the boom continues with determined zeal. To the British visitor the most revealing aspect of shopping in Los Angeles is that you don't even need to park your car. The store does that for you. If valet parking were brought to Great Britain how much more rewarding the shopping experience would be. America offers not only an abundance of goods; it also offers, at least for the rich, an abundance of service.

But, of course, American consumption is not sustained just by the glitzy West Coast. You would expect, given what has happened to income differentials, the rich to be self-sufficient about their economic futures and to want to stop it. What is perhaps more remarkable is the breadth of the boom, for the not-so-well-off are spending more too. That shows in the savings figures, or rather lack of savings figures, for household saving went negative last autumn. For the year as a whole it was only 0.5 per cent, the lowest level since 1983.

(Much of the confidence supporting this spending must be the result of rising share prices, rather than Britons in the late 1980s were prepared to carry on spending because they felt rich on the back of rising house prices. The Dow Jones index hit another all-time high this week and seems to be heading towards the 10,000 mark. This leads to the obvious question of what might happen were Wall Street to fall sharply.



HAMISH MCRAE

The Americans will shop till they drop - or at least until Wall Street drops

BUT WALL STREET hasn't. And in any case there is such momentum behind the spending boom, it will surely take some time to slow down. In January it climbed by 14.7bn, the largest increase for three years. The result of such confidence by consumers is shown in the graph: the US looks like having another year when growth in consumption, at 3.8 per cent, will exceed growth in the economy as a whole of 3.4 per cent. No other Group of Seven country seems likely to reach 3 per cent growth either in consumption or in GDP this year.

The proportion of consumption to GDP will therefore rise further. It is already (see graph) the highest of the G7 countries at nearly 68 per cent of GDP, more than 10 percentage points higher than Germany. There is nothing wrong with reasonably high consumption rates in the sense that the whole purpose of an economy is to give people the best possible standard of living. The popular view that consumption is somehow bad and investment good ignores the fact that a lot of what is classed as investment may simply be wasted, as Japan has shown.

Using investment efficiently is much more important than simply having a lot of it. (A good example is nuclear power. Nuclear power stations cost roughly three times as much as conventional ones, so switching from conventional to nuclear power shows up as higher investment. But the actual power produced is no higher and consumption has had to be lower. Society is poorer as a result.)

Nevertheless, if high consumption shows up in a wide current account deficit as it has in the US, it does ultimately become unsustainable. The deficit is now 3 per cent of GDP. UK consumption is relatively high too, but while the current account has deteriorated sharply since last summer it was actually in surplus in the first part of 1998, and the deficit will still be only about 0.5 per cent of GDP this year. We are more or less OK - the US is pushing the limits.

WHAT THE US consumer is doing, however, is enormously helpful to the world economy at this particular time. If the forecasts for strong consumption growth in the chart are right, and if Mr Rubin is also right in expecting solid US growth this year, then there is a window of opportunity for Europe and Japan to stake up demand so that the baton can be passed from America to the rest of the developed world by 2000.

Assume then that the US consumers can be relied upon to deliver good growth this year. But assume too that if they weaken the problem will be translated quickly into share values.

Just this week a survey by Mercer Management Consultants looked at 100 of the top 1000 US companies that had suddenly lost 25 per cent or more of their stock market value in recent years. The most important single reason for that loss of value was unexpectedly soft consumer demand. It is very easy to paint the gloomy scene of a weak-

ing in consumption leading to a fall in share prices, which in turn would lead to a further weakening in consumption, and so on.

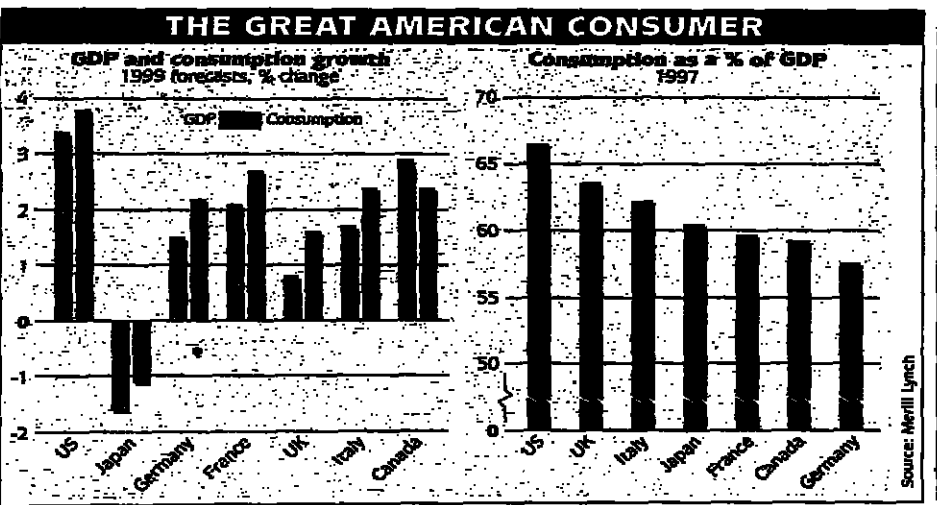
The key will be Japan and Germany, partly because their size is so great. Private consumption in Japan and Germany combined is \$3,750bn, compared with the US at \$5,500bn. No other country in the world consumes over \$1,000bn. Britain and France are each about \$650bn.

The Japanese tale of woe continues almost certainly for this year and the best hope is that growth will be resumed at last by 2000. Germany, you might expect, would profit from the general European upturn, but the fact that growth was negative in the last three months of last year is ominous. German consumers say in surveys that they are becoming more optimistic, but do not yet seem to be buying much more.

At least the big picture of the world economy is becoming clearer. We know the two questions. Question one is: will the US consumers carry on spending hard until demand elsewhere picks up? And question two is: when they ease up, will Japanese and German consumers pick up the running?

The inhibitive answer to the first question, which I think anyone spending some time in the US would give, is that the boom still has considerable legs. Americans are very self-confident at the moment. They are doing the world a great service. It is their patriotic duty to spend money. They will shop till they drop - or at least till Wall Street drops.

For Japan and Germany, of course, the mood is utterly different. It is their patriotic duty to be cautious and save money. Consumption will eventually recover, for it always does. But they need to learn a little of the Rodeo Drive culture if they are to save the world economy. Maybe they should introduce valet parking.



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Bentley (F)	135.7m (130.62m)	7.02m (6.38m)	22.3p (20.3p)	0.2p (-)	22.03.99
Biffaward (F)	459.48m (573.35m)	47.71m (55.11m)	24.3p (27.8p)	11.3p (8.3p)	07.05.99
Burton (F)	14.25m (12.11m)	3.02m (3.14m)	0.81p (0.85p)	0.1p (-)	22.03.99
Canal+ (F)	883.0m (911.5m)	25.1m (28.4m)	15.5p (25.4p)	15.5p (15.5p)	18.05.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	407.36m (413.34m)	18.3m (13.34m)	18.3p (13.34p)	18.3p (13.34p)	20.04.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	6.27m (6.72m)	0.72m (0.75m)	18.3p (13.34p)	18.3p (13.34p)	20.04.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	121.31m (112.85m)	4.15m (5.73m)	23.25p (43.02p)	4.07p (4.44p)	24.05.99
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Canal+ Satellite (F)	288.85m (244.85m)	1.85m (1.49m)	4.45p (20.01p)	3.85p (12.8p)	02.07.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	83.17m (85.13m)	35.4m (31.5m)	10.3p (8.4p)	2.50p (0.2p)	05.04.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	235.5m (235.1m)	2.55m (1.70m)	0.98p (0.85p)	0.3p (-)	04.05.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	39.79m (34.7m)	2.15m (1.75m)	14.0p (1.5p)	3.3p (0.3p)	07.05.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	402.8m (394.5m)	33.0m (35.0m)	8.5p (8.4p)	8.5p (-)	-
Canal+ Satellite (F)	3.2m (2.7m)	0.22m (0.07m)	0.22p (0.07p)	0.22p (-)	-
Canal+ Satellite (F)	25.07m (20.72m)	1.0m (0.50m)	3.35p (25.04p)	12.25p (12.25p)	01.06.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	3.15m (3.98m)	773.0m (823.0m)	25.1p (24.5p)	15.0p (14.5p)	04.05.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	1.85m (2.04m)	182.0m (178.0m)	25.1p (24.5p)	14.1p (14.1p)	04.05.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	755.78m (698.57m)	35.55m (24.5m)	20.1p (20.1p)	8.4p (-)	14.05.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	1.85m (1.75m)	0.22m (0.07m)	0.22p (0.07p)	0.22p (-)	-
Canal+ Satellite (F)	841.1m (833.4m)	23.0m (22.5m)	18.3p (18.3p)	10.2p (8.5p)	01.07.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	623.0m (595.84m)	60.58m (49.83m)	39.2p (35.4p)	12.1p (11.0p)	17.05.99
Canal+ Satellite (F)	1.85m (1.75m)	79.5m (80.4m)	11.0p (11.0p)	11.0p (-)	01.07.99

## Amey bid for Servisair trumped

SERVISAIR, the airport services group, looked set to fall into foreign hands last night after the French company Penauille trumped an £81.5m hostile bid from Amey, the UK construction firm, with a £94m cash offer.

Servisair, which handles baggage and passengers in several UK and European airports, recommended the Paris-based support services group's offer of 230p a share - a 15 per cent premium to Amey's 200p bid.

The appearance of the French white knight prompted several major shareholders in Servisair, including Schroders, Framlington and

Standard Life, to sell their stakes.

Penauille was believed to be very close to the 50 per cent threshold last night, after buying around 29 per cent of Servisair's capital in the market and receiving undertakings for another 20 per cent. Servisair shares jumped 24.5p to 231p.

Amey refused to comment but insiders said that it was extremely unlikely to increase its bid. Other potential bidders, including the transport group Go-Ahead and the venture capitalist Compass were also considered out of the running.

John Willis, the Servisair chairman, said that the offer by Penauille, one of France's largest airport services businesses, represented "good value for our shareholders and an excellent opportunity for Servisair to develop internationally".

The deal will create a group with turnover of around £450m and over 29,000 employees.

Mr Willis, who will remain in charge of Servisair's UK business, said the geographical fit was excellent as Servisair has no operations in France and Penauille needed to expand in the UK and the rest of Europe.

He said he did not expect

any redundancies among Servisair's 5,000 staff.

The Servisair takeover is a victory for Jean-Claude Penauille, the chairman, chief executive and controlling shareholder of the French firm.

Mr Penauille has grown the company from a small cleaning firm into a company quoted on the Paris bourse with a market value of over £200m and operations ranging from industrial cleaning to facilities management. The success by Penauille is a major blow for Amey, which wanted to acquire Servisair to boost its transformation from low-margin construction group into a high growth services company.

BA goes Dutch  
BRITISH AIRWAYS has signed up Base Airline, a Dutch carrier, as a franchise partner, adding seven routes to its European network.

## Saatchi celebrates 31% profits rise

SAATCHI & SAATCHI, the advertising group, is likely to make double-digit margins in the current year after raising its return on sales to 9.2 per cent in 1998, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

Reporting a 31 per cent rise in pre-tax profits before exceptional for 1998, Bob Seeler, the chairman, said the outlook for Saatchi & Saatchi was better than it had been for a long time. Last year was the first full year of trading for the company following its demerger from the advertising giant Cordant.

He pointed out that Saatchi & Saatchi had won \$500m of net new business in 1998 - more

than in the previous two years combined. Much of the new business had come from two of the company's largest clients, Procter & Gamble and Toyota.

Since the start of the new year, Saatchi & Saatchi had added a further \$300m of new business. "We are now positioned as a global agency on a world stage," he said.

Mr Seeler dismissed suggestions that Saatchi & Saatchi might be reunited with its founders, Maurice and Charles Saatchi, who are running their own rival agency, Mr Seeler said no talks had taken place between the two, adding: "We are two very different animals."

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# Financials lead Diageo cheers solid set of results in tough conditions

**BLUE CHIPS** stretched to another peak with Footsie climbing 94.2 points to 6,335.7 in heavy trading. At one time it was 118.8 higher.

The charge was led by financials, inspired by the rich 21.9m Prudential Corporation bid for the M&G unit trust group, and oil, rallying on the back of a firmer crude price.

The Dow Jones Average's seemingly relentless advance to the 10,000 points landmark was another supportive influence; so were the generally encouraging round of recent company results and, once again, the sheer weight of money available for investment. Tuesday's Budget was another factor.

The long expected takeover of M&G, which had been linked with an array of financial groups ranging from Halifax to Morgan Stanley sent the unit trust group's shares soaring 68.5p higher to a 2,450p peak - a remarkable 52p above the previous high.

Schroders, despite its frequent protestations that it intends to remain independent, romped ahead with the voting shares gaining 158p to 1,440p, well below their record, and the non-voting 108p to 1,170p.

National Westminster Bank joined the cash party with a 73p addition to 1,486p and



DEREK PAIN

**MARKET REPORT**

smaller players Premier Oil rose 1.75p to 142.5p and Soco International 4p to 35p. Monmouth Oil & Gas gained 4.75p to 42.5p.

Supporting shares continued to recover although their indices are still well below their peaks. The mid-cap index gained 84.3 to 5,493.3 and the small cap 19.1 to 2,363.1. Market turnover was again above one billion shares, reaching more than 1.3 billion.

Other takeover bids helped generate the action. Besides M&G, a mid-cap constituent, Allied Leisure, unchanged at 27.5p, is bidding for European Leisure, up 19p to 92.5p, and paints maker Kalon improved 17.5p to 130p as 66 per cent shareholder, the French Total group, signalled it wanted full control.

helped by firmer metal prices. Rio rose 44.5p to 87p and BSL, ahead of an investment dinner with Schroders, gained 8p to 142.5p. Billion, the South African group soon to be joined in the Footsie by South African Breweries, held a series of investor meetings today.

Reed Elsevier, the British publishing arm of Reed Elsevier, fell 32.5p to 832.5p on the no growth warning, and Rentokil initial continued to weaken on the back of last week's figures.

Waters again displayed that sinking feeling on worries about the Government's signalled probe. Gallaher, the tobacco group on its way out of the Footsie, dropped another 11p to 381.5p on its acquisition of RJ Reynolds British cigarette business.

Builders, on results, moved ahead; construction group Keller firm 26p to 238.5p after a 21 per cent profit advance. Engineers continued to strengthen with Glynwed International 16p higher at 227.5p. Chemicals were also firm. Laporte, ahead of figures next week, hardened 47.5p to 632.5p.

Media, the publisher, rose 2.5p to 7.7p. It is in talks which may lead to a cash injection. The shares have come

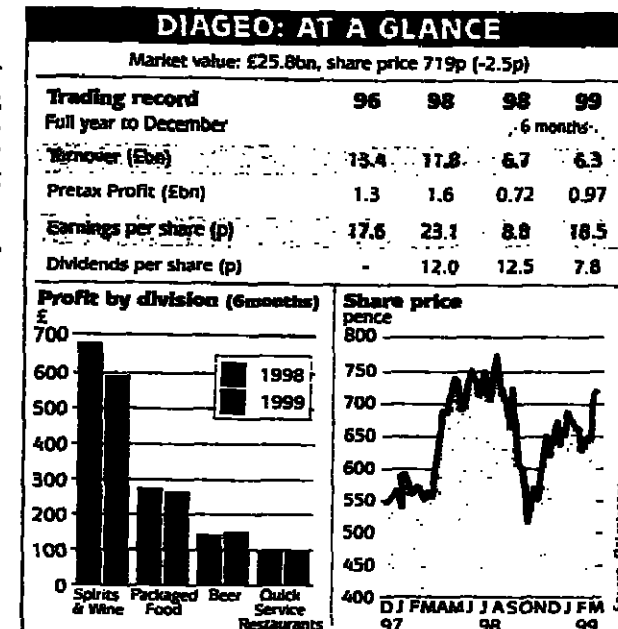
back from 71p. Geo Interactive Media gained a further 12.5p to 77.5p on stories of a link with Nokia. Reflex, the reflective inks group, firmed up to 6p after moving back into the black.

Peter Black, the fashion and healthcare products group, firmed 15p to 317.5p on indications that it is the distributor of Cellasene, the much heralded herbal cellulite pill launched this week.

A round of speculative interest lifted health-care group Tegel Life 6p to 17.5p but Stylo, the shoe-shop chain, indicated more problems on the high street, falling 2.5p to 34.5p by forecasting increased losses.

As he left an IT group these days Axon made a spectacular debut, closing at 254p from a 175p placing price. Dresner Kleinwort Benson thinks the shares have further to go.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.3bn  
SEAQ TRADES: 98.94  
GILTS: 115.04 +2.30



**DIAGEO: AT A GLANCE**

Market value: £25.8bn, share price 719p (-2.5p)

Trading record: 96 98 99 99

Full year to December: 13.4 11.8 6.7 6.3

Pretax Profit (Ebn): 1.3 1.6 0.72 0.97

Earnings per share (p): 17.6 23.1 8.8 18.5

Dividends per share (p): 12.0 12.5 7.8

Profit by division (Ebn): 700 600 500 400 300 200 100 0

Sectors: Sweets, Packaged Food, Beer, Quick Service Restaurants

Share price: 800 750 700 650 600 550 500 450 400

DJFMAMJJASONDJFM

Source: Diageo

from disposals, currency effects, the impact of last year's £2.8bn share buy-back and the cost-saving effects.

Stripping all these out, operating profits limped ahead by 3 per cent to £1.1bn. This might look unimpressive but is actually a reasonable achievement given market conditions in major parts of the Diageo empire.

In spirits, profits in the Far East fell from \$4m to \$5m, with volumes down 30 per cent. In the rest of the world category, which



John McGrath: Further disposals are planned

includes Latin America, organic profits fell by 25 per cent although Diageo brands outperformed the market.

Following the disposal of its 49 per cent interest in Cantrell & Cochrane other disposals are also planned by John McGrath, the chief executive. These will include 3 per cent of the spirits business which are considered non-core plus other parts of the Pillsbury food division.

In packaged foods, where profits fell by 3 per cent partly due to higher cream costs, the outlook is better in the second half. In spirits the horizon is also clearing as the company is now up against weak comparisons last year and markets appears to be bottoming out.

Burger King, long considered by the City as a disposal candidate, is still a core business, according to Diageo. "Quick Service restaurants", as the company now calls its Burger King division, is being helped by the launch of its "stealth fries" which have special crispy coatings. But operating profits there are flat and there is a worrying sales dip in the last two months that is being blamed on the weather. Analysts are concerned that lower advertising spend could have flattened the figures.

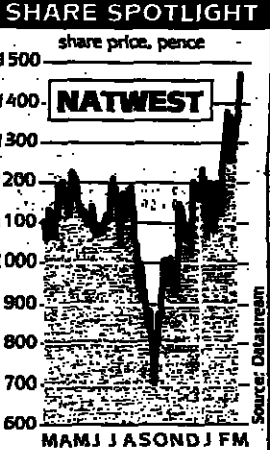
With hints of more share buy-backs investors should sit tight, analysts say. But on full-year forecasts of £1.75bn the shares trade on a full forward rating of 21. After a strong run up from 480p in September, the shares are likely to tread water for now.

**K&H OPTIONS**, one of the two London firms which deal in traditional traded options, has ceased trading.

It is thought to have been hit by the collapse of Irish stockbroker MMI which it put into liquidation last month.

At the time Philip Kitchen, one of K&H's principals, was unable to confirm market rumours that his firm was owed more than £1m.

No comment was available from K&H yesterday.



**EDINBURGH FUND** Managers rose 42.5p to 355p; not on the back of the M&G bid but because it was named as the active fund manager for the new Bank of Scotland Investors' Club.

The company was chosen after a beauty parade. EFM has recently concluded fund manager agreements with Clerical Medical International and Albany International. The shares were once 75p.

After yesterday's progress the fund manager is capitalised at £99m.

yearly sales of £1.6bn, and is likely to exercise its option to buy the rest in 2001.

AMEC reported a 50 per cent increase in 1998 pre-tax profit before exceptional items to £71.4m, on turnover marginally higher at £3.4bn. The market welcomed the result and AMEC's shares soared 25p to an eight-year high of 238.5p.

The key to AMEC's success is its ability to move away from the cut-throat contracting business into higher-margin negotiated agreements, where contracts are not awarded to the lowest bidder.

The turnaround is under way but, with margins of just 1 per cent in some businesses, it is a long way to go. With the shares on just 12 times the 1998 earnings forecast of around 28m, it is worth buying into AMEC's transformation.

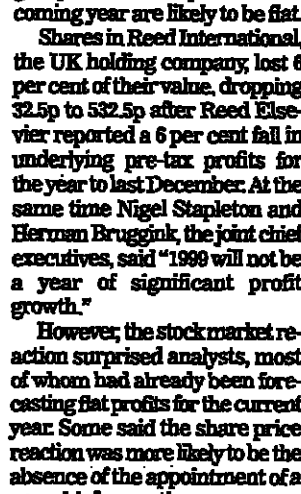
**REED ELSEVIER** disappointed the stock market again yesterday after the Anglo-Dutch publishing group warned that profits in the coming year are likely to be flat.

Shares in Reed International, the UK holding company, lost 6 per cent of their value, dropping 32.5p to 532.5p after Reed Elsevier reported a 6 per cent fall in underlying pre-tax profits for the year to last December. At the same time Nigel Stapleton and Herman Bruggink, the joint chief executives, said "1999 will not be a year of significant profit growth."

However, the stock market reaction surprised analysts, most of whom had already been forecasting flat profits for the current year. Some said the share price reaction was more likely to be the absence of the appointment of a new chief executive.

Reed has been in limbo since last summer, when it announced plans to appoint a single chief executive and chairman. Neither Mr Bruggink nor Mr Stapleton are in the running for the job. Yesterday, Mr Stapleton would only say that the selection process was at "an advanced stage."

Jonathan Newcombe, chief executive and chairman of Siron & Schuster, the US pub-



lishing house, is thought to be a leading candidate.

According to observers, the new chief executive's main task will be to revive Reed Elsevier's sales growth. Yesterday's results showed that turnover in Reed's continuing businesses grew by just 6 per cent in 1998. The company's Lexis-Nexis online legal database reported revenues up just 3 per cent as a result of competition with rival Thomson.

Overall, profits were hit by Reed's strategy of investing heavily in preparing its existing publications for electronic publishing. Reed invested £20m last year, and spending is likely to keep running at a similar rate in future years.

Henderson Crosthwaite analyst Louise Barton, who is maintaining her 1999 profit forecast at 577m, said "All the bad news is out of the way, the current weakness is an opportunity to buy the stock."

clays, down to 88p in October, jumped 79p to 1,885p, just 56p below the high point reached last summer.

Others to move ahead included Lloyds TSB, 40p to 980p, and Standard Chartered 36p to 928.5p. Perpetual, the fund manager, rose 412.5p to 4,042.5p and Amvescap added 27.5p to 646.5p. The Pru added 16.5p to 797.5p.

BP Amoco led the oil surge. The depressed sector, in the dumps as the crude price has collapsed, was inflated by suggestions that Opec would later today sanction production cuts, which unsurprisingly prompted the crude price to strengthen.

BP, which has suffered much less damage than other oil groups as tracker funds have been forced to increase their investments following the Amoco deal, firmed 92p to a 1,021.5p peak. Shell, helped by buy-back plans, rose 33.75p to 396.75p.

Enterprise Oil, results today put on 18.5p to 321.5p and Lamsco 15p to 155p.

The two are talking merger and there are hopes the Enterprise figures could be accompanied by details of a deal although it is known that Lamsco has other suitors. Among the

picked up shares in the market and with acceptances already have almost 50 per cent of Servisair's capital.

Saltire, a distributor of electronic components, firmed 2.75p to 7p on management buy-out talks. But not all deals are consummated. Packaging group Jarvis Porter fell 8p to 79p as bid discussions were called off.

And English China Clay at one time touched 230p on worries that the £76m bid from the French Imetal group will be blocked; the shares ended unchanged at 234.5p against the 250p offer.

Signet, the jeweller, was the most heavily traded share with Seag putting turnover at 84.2 million shares with the price up 2.5p to 48.25p. SG Securities firmed its target price to 60p.

Scottish & Southern, the electricity group, slipped 13.5p to 532.5p as a large line of shares was placed.

RioTinto and Billion were

down from 71p. Geo Interactive Media gained a further 12.5p to 77.5p on stories of a link with Nokia. Reflex, the reflective inks group, firmed up to 6p after moving back into the black.

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**Staying in the City**

CANARY WHARF is the best thing since sliced bread, according to the investment bankers who are advising on the Docklands property scheme's float.

Fair enough. The people from Morgan Stanley Dean Witter should know - they are one of the longest established tenants of the East End development. Co-advicing Canary Wharf on the site are Cazenove, those blue-blooded British brokers. Cazenove still inhabits Tokenhouse Yard in the City, three miles to the west of Canary Wharf.

So at the Canary Wharf press conference yesterday I asked Richard Cotton of Cazenove the obvious question: "When are you moving to Canary Wharf?"

Mr Cotton looked somewhat startled and replied: "We have no present plans to move. Mind you, you can never say never."

At which, John Landman of

**PEOPLE AND BUSINESS**

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Morgan Stanley, who was also at the briefing, chimed in somewhat gleefully: "They've resisted all persuasion so far."

C'mon Caz, show us you really believe in your client.

**On location**

THE PRESS conference referred to above was held near the Barbican in the City. Why not in Canary Wharf? After all the pathfinder prospectus published yesterday describes it as "a recognised and established location" with "easy access to the rest of London". What better way to advertise its charms than have its press launch there?

George Jacobson, chairman of Canary Wharf, ex-

plained: "We're having an investors' roadshow here, with lunch and a series of one-hour slots. We'll be having a presentation in Canary Wharf on Tuesday."

Personally I think they were worried that a delay on the Docklands Light Railway might have provided unwelcome headlines.

**Rage in church**

STRIDING THROUGH the Square Mile yesterday I was struck by a poster outside the church of St Botolph's Aldersgate headed: "What about the workers?"

Far from signalling a new interest in proletarian revolution among the City's faithful, the poster listed a series of talks

given by the resident vicar; the Reverend David Prior, starting on 4 February with "Sweat and Pain". This was followed on February 11 with "Rage and Violence".

Obviously the vicar has City traders in mind. Four further talks were listed before we came to 18 March: "Confusion in the marketplace".

Finally on 25 March the Reverend Prior is set to reach the inescapable conclusion: "The time to get out."

**Enthusiasts**

A FIRM of City recruitment consultants has spotted a trend among candidates to spurn traditional "hobbies" when filling out their CVs.

According to Gillow Purdie Associates, sports, reading, theatre and the like have been replaced by "Shiatsu massage, Feng Shui, ballet, mentoring and photography". And that's just the men.

The female candidates in contrast show an increasing enthusiasm for "Formula 1 motor

racing, football, fencing and skiing." Alison Gillow, director of the firm, is not sure whether such role reversal is due to women breaking the "glass ceiling" or to "hormones in the water supply".

**Après-ski**

EDDIE THE EAGLE, the erstwhile ski-jumper, gave the after-dinner speech for the City Ski Run last night in the Vintners hall. In two weeks time hordes of City types will descend on Courchevel in France for the annual ski run to raise money for disabled charities.

I hear that last year Rory Tapper, head of corporate finance at Warburg Dillon Read, got somewhat carried away during an after-dinner game. Photos of the larks were subsequently auctioned for £500, but disappointingly found to feature nothing that would embarrass Mr Tapper. Let's hope for a better performance this year.

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES						
Country	Spot	1 month	3 month	Country	Spot	1 month
Australia	1.0000			France	0.6110	0.6112
Canada	0.7244	0.7237	0.7233	Germany	1.5728	1.5731
China	109.40	109.35	109.30	Italy	1.5728	1.5731
Hong Kong	0.6930	0.6925	0.6920	Japan	1.5728	1.5731
India	2.4885	2.4975	2.5049	Netherlands	1.5728	1.5731
Indonesia	1.0821	1.0833	1.0859	Portugal	1.5728	1.5731
Israel	1.4822	1.4902	1.4924	Spain	0.9024	0.9012
Malaysia	0.8279	0.8105	0.7772	Sweden	3.3937	3.3981
New Zealand	1.2683	1.2681	1.2681	Switzerland	3.3937	3.3981
Philippines	2.0309	2.0386	2.0873	Thailand	1.7715	1.7659
Singapore	476.87	478.45	481.55	UK	2.94	2.91
South Africa	12.883	12.883	12.883	USA	1.0000	1.0000
South Korea	1.1693	1.1670	1.1626			
Taiwan	287.45	286.69	285.84			
Thailand	194.55	193.68	192.81			
West Germany	3.6529	3.6508	3.6479			
Yugoslavia	15.941	15.941	15.941			
Argentina	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000			
Brazil	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000			
Canada	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000			
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## SPORT

Boxing: Lewis's heavyweight championship rival puts faith in his Lord to fulfil prediction of a quick victory tomorrow

## Holyfield emboldened by high spirits

RICHARD WILLIAMS  
IN NEW YORK

HE CUTS a quietly impressive figure at the lectern, addressing a congregation of media folk. His dress is austere, his manner direct. His speech is sometimes halting, but the hesitations are caused by a search for meaning. In his Southern back porch way, Evander Holyfield talks not just a good fight but a pretty good career.

Some back porch, too. That career has landed him, his wife and their four children with an Atlanta mansion worth \$15m (£9.5m), probably the most lavish home in all of sporting history. And the chances are that Holyfield, unlike so many of his predecessors and rivals, will hang on to the spoils of the ring. For this is a man to whom the virtues of humility and frugality are not unknown, who deals not in hype but in realism.

And Holyfield was not afraid to talk this week, ahead of his reunification match with Lennox Lewis tomorrow night in New York, about the stuff that hurts. Whose punch, he was asked, had hit him the hardest?

"It's hard to say," he replied, "because I've been hit a lot of times, and all of 'em hurt. But I got over it."

Getting over it sometimes took every scrap of willpower. "Problems are part of life," said the man born the youngest of eight children raised by a single mother in Alabama. "The one who finds the solution is the one who gets through."

He talked about the lowest point of his career, and how it all turned around. Not surprisingly, the story concerned the first of his two tumultuous fights with Mike Tyson in 1996, the heroic victory achieved by a stoppage in the 11th round, through which he regained the World Boxing Association title.

"At the time I fought Tyson I was at my lowest," he said. "I didn't know if I still had it." The decline had started the previous year, when he lost for the second time to Riddick Bowe. "I had already told people I was going to carry the Olympic torch as the heavyweight champion of the world in 1996 and then I got in with Riddick Bowe and lost. That fight made me feel that I'd been derailed."

Six months later he found himself in the ring with a much lesser fighter, Bobby Czyz. "I went in there trying to blow him out and I didn't do it. I got the victory but I thought, who can I beat? I wondered if I can't get through Bobby Czyz, what can I do? I felt real bad. Real discouraged. That was my lowest point. I was getting beaten up in sparring. And I was asking the Lord. 'When is the skill going to come back to me? You supposed to rejuvenate me! Then He made me start praying. Praying and praising. The Lord told me, victory is mine. A couple of weeks before the Tyson fight, it all came back. Through my prayer and my praise, the Lord had uplifted me. That was it. I would never lose again."

The combination of Holyfield's constant willingness to share credit for his fortune with his Lord and the allegations that he has fathered up



Evander Holyfield has his hands taped by Don Turner at the Church Street gym as he prepares to face Lennox Lewis at Madison Square Garden in pursuit of the unified world title Allsport

to half a dozen children outside his marriage form the evidence that persuaded Lennox Lewis, searching for a weakness, to call him a hypocrite. Lewis was on surer ground when he described Holyfield's most recent performance, a points win over Vaughn Bean in Atlanta last September, as very ordinary.

"Things like that don't matter because they don't make me no less," Holyfield said this week. "I'm not inspired by what people say. I'm inspired by what I do. That's his opinion. If I was ordinary to him in that fight, that's fine. That don't have nothing to do with this fight. I'm glad that each and every time I come into the ring I have the opportunity to do better and the opportunity to redeem myself once again."

Holyfield's uncharacteristic assertion that he will knock Lewis out in the third round has been disparaged by those who have examined his record since he reached the top and have found little to support his claim, particularly in his three fights between 1992 and 1995 against Riddick Bowe, the fighter who in size and style most resembles Lewis. After the two men had won one fight apiece over the full distance, Bowe decided the series with a fourth-round stoppage.

"What does the past have to do with today? It's a different time and a different place," Holyfield said. "Riddick Bowe was able to do something I wasn't able to figure out, that's all. And I don't say that I'm still that same fighter that fought Riddick

Bowe. If I were still fighting with the same skills I had in 1992 or 1994 or 1995, I wouldn't stand a chance. Lennox would whup that guy. So I'm not going to let you told me to my past."

Despite the evidence of his lacklustre post-Tyson displays, Holyfield insists that, at 36, his development is continuing. "The only thing I see in myself is improvement," he said. "The majority of fighters decline when they're 30. As you can see, I'm rapidly growing. The difference is that I've learnt from my mistakes. I've been fighting an uphill battle all my life and I always overcome things."

The contrast in physique and

styles could hardly be more marked: the former cruiserweight with the six-pack stomach against a former Olympic super-heavyweight champion. "I don't watch tapes that much," Holyfield said, "but I've seen Lennox fight a few times and in general I know his style. My concentration is on what I have to do to win. He's a target. He's a big target. And when a person's a big target, what is there to do but hit him?"

The famous third-round prediction continues to cause surprise among those who associate Holyfield with a more cautious attitude. "Nothing's changed," he said, "except that I'm a lot more confident than I've ever been. That's the

only difference. It happened when I was doing an interview on the telephone and my spirit just said, 'Go ahead, tell them you're going to knock him out in three rounds.' It jumped out. It don't have anything to do with Lennox. It has to do with this place and this time. I've been doing this thing over and over since I was eight years old, so I should have the confidence to say what I'm going to do. I have my ups and I have my downs, but I've always been able to overcome. Here's a point in time that I'm in my high spirits, and I know that I can do this not because of what Lennox can do but the fact that I know what I'm capable of doing."

"Lennox Lewis is good. I'm not talking him down. You have the best of the best in this fight. Because you have the best of the best, and two people are really trying to win, somebody's going to get knocked out because that's the only way you can hit somebody, when they're trying to hit you. So I'm going to hit him first and get him on out of there in the third round."

Was he concerned about the motivation of an opponent facing a fight that will define his entire career? "I'm not concerned with what Lennox needs to prove. I'm not concerned with what he may do, because anything Lennox does, I'm going to use it against him. If he moves well,

I'm going to use it against him. If he don't move well, I'm going to use that against him. But my whole thing of doing what I'm doing is not based on Lennox Lewis at all."

"I'm at my very best and that's why I'm going to knock him out in the third round. I'm not telling nobody to believe me right today, but you're going to believe me now or later, one of the two. It don't bother me. And in a way you're right. One should be smart enough to say, 'Why should I believe that?' Then later you can say, 'Shoot, he was right.'"

What if... "Ain't no 'What if'. Ain't no Plan B. Plan A got to work. Ain't but one way. Lennox is the toughest guy out there, but he's still going in three rounds."

And would that, and the reunification of the three major world heavyweight titles, which he held from 25 October 1990 to 13 November 1992, finally allow Evander Holyfield to call himself one of the greatest boxers of all time?

"I'm one of them already," he said, "whether people know it or not. If you look at boxing, you'll see that all the greats built themselves on the foundation of the older fighters. I looked at Ali, I looked at Joe Frazier. I looked at the Brown Bomber. I looked at all those guys. They are the foundation. So the only thing I can say is, I am the very best of this era."

"And after that, people can say what they want to say. But I was the best in this era, just like those guys were the best of theirs."

## EVANDER HOLYFIELD'S RECORD IN THE RING 1985-1999

Fights: 39, Wins: 36, Knockouts: 25, Defeats: 3			
Nov WPTS 6th	Lionel Blytham (New York)	July WKO 2	Adrian Rodriguez (Statefeline)
1985		Nov WTKO 8	Alex Stewart (Atlantic City)
Jan WPTS 6	Eric Womack (Atlantic City)	1990	
Mar WTKO 1	Fred Brown (Norfolk)	June WTKO 4	Seamus McDonagh (Atlantic City)
Apr WTKO 2	Mark Rivera (Corpus Christie)	Oct WKO 3	James Douglas (won WBA, WBC, IBF heavyweight titles, LV)
July WPTS 8	Tyrone Boggs (Norfolk)		
Aug WKO 1	Rick Myers (Atlanta)	1991	
Oct WKO 5	Jeff Meachem (Atlantic City)	W PTS12	George Foreman (retained title, Atlantic City)
Dec WKO 4	Anthony Davis (Virginia Beach)	Nov WTKO 7	Bert Cooper (retained title, Atlanta)
1986			
Mar WKO 3	Osairanda Murad (Lancaster)	Jun WPTS12	Larry Holmes (retained title, LV)
Apr WKO 3	Jesus Sirechy (Corpus Christie)	Nov LPTS12	Riddick Bowe (lost title, LV)
May WKO 5	Tony Mims (Metairie)	1993	
July WPTS15	Dwight Gage (WBA cruiserweight title, Atlanta)	Jun WPTS12	Alex Stewart (Atlantic City)
Dec WKO 3	Mike Brockner (Paris)	Nov WPTS12	Riddick Bowe (won WBA, WBC, IBF in LV)
1987		Apr LPTS12	Michael Moore (lost WBA, IBF in LV)
Feb WTKO 7	Henry Tillman (Retained WBA, Reno)	1995	
May WTKO 3	Ricky Parvey (Retained WBA, won IBF, Las Vegas)	Nov WPTS10	Ray Mercer (Atlantic City)
		Nov LTKO 8	Riddick Bowe (Las Vegas)
Aug WTKO 11	Oscar Ocasio (Retained WBA, IBF, St Tropez)	1996	
Dec WTKO 4	Dwight Gage (Retained WBA, IBF, Atlantic City)	Nov WRET 5	Bobby Czyz (New York)
1988		Nov WRSF 11	Mike Tyson (won WBA title, LV)
Apr WTKO 8	Carlos Delacruz (Ret, WBA, IBF, won WBC, LV)	1997	
July WKO 5	James Tillson (Statefeline)	Nov WDO 3	Mike Tyson (retains WBA, LV)
Dec WTKO 7	Pinckon Thomas (Atlantic City)	Nov WTKO 8	Michael Moore (retains WBA, wins IBF, LV)
1989		1998	
Mar WTKO 10	Michael Dolan (Las Vegas)	Sept WPTS12	Vaughn Bean (retains WBA, IBF, Atlanta)



## TOMORROW



Paul Carberry is hoping to emulate one of his father's achievements by riding the winner in the Gold Cup at Cheltenham next week. The jockey of Dorans Pride talks to Richard Edmondson

## Rogers happy to put wind up Willows

Castleford's lanky winger crosses paths with former club Salford in rugby league's Challenge Cup tomorrow. By Dave Hadfield

"I didn't leave Salford on bad terms. I'm still in touch with kids like Steve Blakeley and Gary Broadbent."

"In fact, I hope they only lose three games all season - all to us and starting with the cup tie."

Rogers spent four seasons at The Willows after signing from his first professional club, Dewsbury. At 24, he felt the time was right to make a move, but returning to his native Yorkshire - he comes originally from Wakefield - was a major factor in determining his destination. "I'd been living in Salford in a flat and it was a bit of a case of everybody going off in their separate directions after training - the Pieaters off to Wigan and so on. I'd reached the stage where I wanted to be closer to my family and friends."

"There were a few clubs inter-

ested in talking to me, but when I spoke to the Castleford coach, Stuart Raper, I liked everything he had to say - especially about the players he was going to bring in and what he was trying to build here."

"There are only a handful of teams outside the big four who can make a serious bid for a top-five spot in Super League and Castleford are one of them."

Already, he has noticed the difference at Wheldon Road. "The supporters at Salford were great, but it's been a long time since they had any real success."

"The fans at Castleford expect more, because it's not long ago that this club was always known as 'Classy Cas', he says."

After a season of steady improvement last year, those supporters will be looking for a break-

through this time - and the often underrated skills of Rogers on the wing can make a major contribution.

He is an unlikely looking rugby league player, gangling and lean - although not as lean as he once was - in his studious glasses, but Rogers' Salford years saw him mature into a potential match-winner. "I had a bit of a sticky period there playing full-back. The attacking part of the role was okay, but I never really felt at home with the defensive side of the job and I regard myself as a winger now."

He brings a couple of major assets to that position. With his long, loping stride, he is considerably faster than he looks, both going for the line and chasing in defence, and there are few players who have profited more from the lofted kick to the wing that has become a part of

many clubs' attacking armouries over the past few seasons.

Indeed, there is such a difference in height between him and his likely opponent tomorrow afternoon, Salford's newly-recruited Joey Hayes, that it would be surprising if the Cas stand-off, Danny Orr, did not launch a few kicks towards his flank during the course of the match.

Rogers, a try-scorer in that ill-fated semi-final last year, could well mark his rite of passage back over the Pennines by plucking one out of their air at Wheldon Road. That is so often the way these things work.

His links with both clubs have made him - unusually for a generally self-effacing player - the centre of attention this week. "But I'm treating it as just another game," he says. "Its significance is that it's the game that gets us into the semi-final. But I suppose I will be trying for that little bit extra."



Rogers: 'Fans expect success'

Handwritten note: 150



# Sethi settles for local heroism

Billiards graced the green baize in Liverpool this week but few wanted to watch the British Open. By Guy Hodgson

YOU DID not need to know that billiards is the poor relation of snooker, the venue told you. A converted Victorian terrace was pleasant enough but no one would put it on a par with The Crucible. Come to think about it, the practice area in Sheffield is bigger than the arena.

The crowd, if you could call it that, told a similar tale. Forty souls had wandered in off Liverpool's busy Derry Lane to watch Chris Shutt beat Rex Williams 1319-210 in the semi-finals, whereas 20 times as many at least would have been attracted if the Strachan British Open swapped the name billiards for snooker. Not to mention the couple of million glued to the green baize on television.

Pay-per-view did not come into what was on show at the Liverpool Billiards and Snooker Club because apart from a local Merseyside cable station which turned up for a news report yesterday, television was not interested. Even the spectators were allowed in free. The sport has not died but you do have to shake it ever so often to make sure it has not been forgotten.

In the 1930s Walter Lindrum, the greatest billiards player ever, was as famous as Don Bradman in his native Australia, and banner headlines would celebrate his every move. "Lindrum meets the Queen" was one which was useful because some were too bedazzled by his presence to be sure of the identity of the woman he was pictured with. If the current world champion, Geet Sethi, met the monarch, she would assume he was an Indian diplomat while the great British public would be wholly non-plussed.

It is the supreme irony that Lindrum - "We're not fit to even lick his boots," Michael Ferreira, a four times world champion, said yesterday - was also the architect of what he is now, simply because he was so good. The billiards he



Chris Shutt, who beat the world champion Geet Sethi in the British Open this week, represents the future of a sport struggling to find an audience. Simon Wilkinson

played surpassed Joe Davis, never mind what Joe Public could aspire to, and the world largely turned its back on a sport to which they found hard to relate.

Hence the £200,000-plus first prize the snooker world champion will pick up in Sheffield in May compared with the £10,000 Sethi collected in Ahmedabad last September and the £6,500 at stake for the winner in Liverpool last night. Considering that billiards is the senior partner, something has gone drastically wrong somewhere.

"It's the way things are, so there's no point fretting about it," said Sethi, who lost in the third round at Liverpool. "The sports are similar yet totally different, so it is like comparing what billiards players get to what footballers or golfers earn. Of course we'd like more

money in the game but I don't think it has been marketed that well in this country."

Sethi is from a nation where the indifference displayed towards a billiards tournament this week would not be comprehensible. Television audi-

ences are around 100 million for

tournaments in India where he is a household name and a frequent target for autograph hunters.

Indeed, nothing illustrates the chasm between snooker and billiards more in this country than the fact that he and Ferreira supplement their win-

nings by slipping in and out of The Crucible in April and May to report on snooker's world championship for the *Hindu* and the *Times* of India, respectively. Funny enough, John Higgins and Stephen Hendry were not in Liverpool

as the 65-year-old Williams, the world champion for 14 years in the 1960s and '70s and the last player to play both cue sports at the highest level, is a throwback to billiards' great days.

To put that £27 break in perspective Shutt, from Stockton-

might be inspiring, watching it being created rarely is.

Which is billiards' problem. It is a more skilled sport than its rich, flash kid brother but not as watchable and although that ought to suggest billiards players could fit in a quick frame of snooker whenever they need a quick pot or two, the high levels of competition means the opposite is true. Sethi, 37, is in the Guinness Book of Records as the first amateur to make a 147 in competition, yet he estimates he would have been a top 64 player at best if he had stuck with the more lucrative game.

"The pressure element makes a difference," said Sethi, pinpointing the reason why. "You are facing pressure all the time in snooker whereas in billiards, in a four-hour game, for the first three hours you play

free and easy because you always have time.

"The cue action required is different, too. In snooker you hit the ball hard, in billiards there is more delicacy, spin and side to manoeuvre the balls to continue the break. The knowledge required to play billiards at the highest level is greater."

Yesterday it was youth rather than wisdom that prevailed as Shutt built an early advantage with a break of 350 on his seventh visit and then was uncatchable. A win by 1,100 points is a massacre and given Williams' stature as chairman of the governing body for snooker and billiards, the WPBSA, would have guaranteed headlines if he had done it in the 22 rather than the three-ball game.

Instead the feat went almost unnoticed. Still, the Asian seemed impressed.

*'Snooker and billiards are similar yet totally different so it is like comparing what billiards players get to what footballers earn. We'd like more money in the game but I don't think it has been marketed that well in this country'*

## Williams' Shanghai anger

MARK WILLIAMS branded conditions in the China International tournament "a disgrace to snooker" after his hopes of an Asian double were ended by fellow Welshman Paul Davies yesterday. Williams, winner of the Thailand Masters four days earlier, was scathing about the table and the room used for the tournament at the JC Mandarin Hotel in Shanghai.

Forced to play in a small outside arena due to local Chinese television, electing to broadcast the Alan McManus v Mark King match, Williams made his feelings plain. "The table and the room were a disgrace for professional snooker," he moaned. "I can't wait to get out of this place."

"It was the same at the Scottish Open in Aberdeen. The outside table set-up was terrible there as well and something

### SNOOKER

needs to be done. It doesn't make you want to play. Mind you, Paul played really well and towards the end he hammered me. I think he could give John Higgins a fight in the quarter-finals."

Williams moved smoothly into a 2-0 lead with breaks of 53 and 48 and looked capable of repeating his 5-0 first-round whitewash of Dominic Dale. The turning point arrived in the third frame. Having opened the scoring with a 58 break, Williams missed a black off its spot and Davies produced a 67 clearance to steal it. The world No 41 then made breaks of 68, 50, 51 and 42 to dominate the next four frames and record the biggest surprise of the tournament so far.

"The clearance in the third

gave me the boost I needed and my form kicked in," Davies said. "I knew this kind of victory was coming because I have been playing so well in practice. It was just a matter of when."

Stephen Hendry returned to his best during a 3-2 quarter-final victory over John Parrott. "That's probably my best performance of the season," declared the six-times world champion, who only squeezed past Steve Davis 5-4 on the black in the previous round.

"When you scrape through a match you should by rights have lost it already tends to relax you and that's how I felt out there," added Hendry.

His level of relaxation and focus was apparent from the outset as he prevented Parrott potting a single ball in the opening two frames. The experienced Liverpoolian took

the third with a break of 68 and opened the scoring with 51 in the fourth before Hendry rolled in the long red to launch the 87 clearance which gave him a 3-1 lead.

Parrott won a scrappy fifth frame but did not take another point as Hendry impressively whipped through the next two frames in only 18 minutes with breaks of 107, 46 and 30.

"It was very encouraging, because I can't remember missing an important pot from distance apart from one when a TV cameraman put me off by moving. I just hope I can keep this momentum going," added Hendry.

Next up for Hendry, who is bidding to capture his fourth title of the season, will be Billy Snaddon, his practice partner at Spencers Snooker Centre in Striling for the past eight years.

## Mayer takes revenge

### SKIING

CHRISTIAN MAYER led an Austrian clean sweep in the final men's super-G of the season in Sierra Nevada, Spain, yesterday to effectively end Hermann Maier's chance of retaining his overall World Cup title. Mayer won in 1min 28.71sec from Andreas Schifferer, in 1:29.06, and Josef Strolb, in 1:29.53.

Maier, the world, Olympic and World Cup champion, finished a disappointing seventh, and his team-mates did him no favours in the battle for the overall crown. He now trails the Norwegian leader, Lasse Kjus, by 102 points with just two races left. Kjus, who shared the super-G title with Maier at last month's World Championships, finished fourth.

If Maier decides not to compete in the slalom, which he does not normally race, then the overall title has been handed

### SKIING

over to the Norwegians. Kjus has 1,409 points, with compatriot Kjetil Andre Aamodt second overall on 1,317. Maier has 1,307. Aamodt finished 16th yesterday, which would normally have given him 15 points, but under the rules operating at the World Cup finals only the top 15 racers score.

Maier was fifth out of the starting hut and crossed the line more than half a second faster than the previous quickest and a second in front of Aamodt, but it proved a false dawn for the Austrian as Schifferer, Mayer and then Strolb all pushed him further and further down the field.

Mayer said: "This is my revenge on the coaches taking me out of the super-G team for Vail. In the morning when I saw

### SKIING

the conditions I knew this was going to be a good course for me."

Strolb, asked whether he and his team-mates had tried to assist Maier, rejected such a suggestion. "No, not at all," he said. "Everyone has to look after himself."

Maier was critical of the conditions. "Normally in such a race I should have been the winner," said the skier who has won four out of six super-Gs this season. "The wind was very important... there was also too much soft snow for my liking. My one goal left is to win the giant slalom, but the way things have been going in the last few days even that is doubtful."

Aamodt said he had slipped at the top and, despite making up speed, the error ruined his chances.

Results, Digest, page 31

## SNOW REPORTS in association with WorldCover Direct

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Resort	Area open	Comment	Slopes (cm)	Last snow	Temp	Forecast
<b>ANDORRA</b>						
Pail .....	100%	Some good skiing	100	115	5.3	2C Cloud, sun
<b>AUSTRIA</b>						
Aufsch .....	100%	Gr at altitude	60	260	11.3	0C Overcast
Nieders .....	100%	Gr at altitude	60	260	11.3	2C Cloudy
<b>BULGARIA</b>						
Borovets .....	100%	Good conditions	35	110	8.3	-1C Sunny
<b>CANADA</b>						
Tremblant .....	95%	Packed powder	65	140	3.3	-9C Clear
<b>FRANCE</b>						
Agassiz .....	95%	Powdery high up	130	310	8.3	2C Bright
Meribel .....	95%	Great skiing	120	240	8.3	4C Sunny
<b>ITALY</b>						
Alpe .....	60%	Good skiing	40	130	7.3	-4C Changeable
Pin .....	100%	Good skiing	90	120	7.3	-4C Mild
<b>SCOTLAND</b>						
Gairn .....	90%	Plenty of snow cover	35	65	11.3	-2C Cold
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>						
Leyten .....	100%	Snow lower down	140	280	5.3	-4C Changeable
<b>UNITED STATES</b>						
Sugar Bush .....	80%	Firm, packed snow	30	95	8.3	-20C Cloudy

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## Shaw and Thompson in opposition

### HOCKEY

By BILL COLWILL

from Slough's defeat at Ipswich earlier in the season on a partly frozen pitch, will want to put the record straight.

"I don't think I will opt for a cat and mouse game," Shaw said. "My aim will be to get our pattern right with Europe at Easter and then the play-offs in mind."

For these two Great Britain team-mates in the Atlanta

### HOCKEY

Olympics, victory tomorrow will be high on their priorities. At the bottom, Doncaster, two points adrift of Sutton Coldfield, have crucial games away to Fylkes Leicester and at home to Olton Terraset on Sunday, while Sutton's last two games are against Highbury tomorrow and at home to Slough, yet to be arranged.

The key game in the First Division is second-placed Chelmsford Highway's match away to third-placed Aldridge. Both clubs are currently equal

### HOCKEY

on points and striving for the second automatic promotion place behind Canterbury. However, fourth-placed Bradford could, with wins against Canterbury tomorrow and Loughborough Students on Sunday, claim their place in the enlarged Premier next season.

Kuala Lumpur will host the next men's World Cup in 2002, with the women's event going to Perth, Western Australia. The 2002 men's and women's Champions Trophy will be held in Belgium.

### HOCKEY

London Broncos have signed the former Canberra Raiders prop Anthony Seibold. The 23 year old arrived too late to be registered for Sunday's Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final against Whitehaven Warriors but will be in line for a place against Sheffield Eagles in the Super League fixture on 20 March.

Seibold has signed a two-year contract and will fill the gap left by the return to Australia of Marty McKenzie.

## League stands firm on venue

### RUGBY LEAGUE

By DAVE HADFIELD

THE LEAGUE is committed to staging the 2000 Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Murrayfield despite the news that demolition at Wembley will not begin until August next year. The London stadium was expected to be out of commission by next May, so a decision was made to play the final in Edinburgh, after Twickenham and Cardiff had also been considered.

"We have been in frequent contact with the Wembley authorities and they could give us no guarantee that the stadium would be available," said the RFL's deputy chief executive, Dave Callaghan. "We have committed ourselves to Murrayfield and that is where we will be playing the final in 2000."

It now seems that the code's biggest occasion could be a moveable feast for four seasons. "We were hoping to be back at Wembley for 2003, but it could be 2004," said Callaghan. No decision on venues for the final after Murrayfield have yet been made.

Referees are to be given powers to send-off interlopers from the sidelines. Water-carriers, whose encroachments have been one of the irritants of the modern game, are to be limited to two per team and any interference with the action on the field is to be punished by a warning, followed by dismissal.

Offenders are unlikely to be shown the familiar red and yellow cards, however. They are in line to be scrapped following discussions with coaches and referees.

The referees' controller, Greg McCallum, favours a return to the old system of simply pointing a player towards the dressing-room, holding up the fingers of both hands if he is being sin-binned rather than permanently expelled.

The National Conference League club Ovensden have been expelled for playing a professional under an assumed name. The club, next to last in the Second Division of the competition, have been found guilty of fielding Lee Midgley, a contracted player at Halifax, but said that they were shocked at the severity of their punishment.

Midgley, whose father Robert is the Ovensden chairman, was found to have played under the assumed name of David Graham, who is a former Ovensden player, 13 times but was recognised by opposition teams. Tony McElroy, said: "We expected something other than expulsion. We are devastated. Along with the fines, this could mean the demise of the club."

Terry Parle, who is chairman of both the National Conference League and the British Amateur Rugby League Association, said: "Ovensden officials freely admitted they had blatantly flouted the rules of the League and, in fact, had cheated. We had no option but to boot them out of the League with immediate effect."

Halifax, meanwhile, have suffered another setback, with their two most experienced forwards out of action for at least a month. Gary Mercer has a neck injury and Kelvin Skerrett has broken a thumb. Their absences will not help the surprise side of last season to overcome what has so far been a slow start to this campaign.

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Seibold has signed a two-year contract and will fill the gap left by the return to Australia of Marty McKenzie.

WEDNESDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE.			
Draw date: 10/03/99. The winning numbers: 8, 12, 27, 32, 36, 49. Bonus number: 48.			
Total Sales: £28,790,191. Prize Fund: £12,955,585 (45% of ticket sales).			
CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT PER WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (jackpot)	4	£1,038,923	£4,155,692
Match 5 plus bonus ball	5	£255,734	£1,278,670
Match 5	473	£1,689	£798,897
Match 4	26,240	£62	£1,635,080
Match 3	496,367	£10	£4,963,670
TOTALS	528,209		£12,955,209

© Camelot Group plc. Players must be 18 or over. Breakage (prizes rounded down to nearest £1): £1,376.

Maybe, just maybe. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY







# Calannes goes as Richmond sack 34

RICHMOND, THE Premiership One club plunged headlong into a financial crisis last week when Ashley Levett, their major investor, decided he had endured enough rugby politics to quit his job. Levett, who had been in the club since 1994, was a key figure in the club's revival. He had been in the club since 1994, was a key figure in the club's revival. He had been in the club since 1994, was a key figure in the club's revival.

**RUGBY UNION**  
By CHRIS HEWITT

Insulation that one of England's pioneering professional clubs had not hit the rocks with a fearful thump were disabused of that notion on Wednesday night when the administration team from the United Kingdom's leading rugby union specialists, advised the Richmond work-force. They painted a grisly picture of a business in free-fall and said serious sacrifices would have to be made simply to keep the ship afloat.

were made redundant, along with 23 colleagues from the ancillary departments. The casualties started at the very top: Calannes, capped 48 times by France and one of the finest open-side flankers in world rugby during a heyday that extended well into the middle years of the decade, had been at the club only a matter of months after signing from Harlequins during the close season. Chapman, capped by England last summer, and Davies, the former Wales outside-half, have struggled with injury this season but were considered integral parts of the Premiership squad.

Levett, a multi-millionaire copper trader who now lives on the Continent, informed Richmond last week that he was withdrawing his support after a three-year investment ap-

proaching £3 million. Bitterly frustrated by interminable wrangling between the Premiership clubs, the Rugby Football Union and the organising body of the European Cup, he said he was unwilling to commit further funds to a game still unable to finalise an intelligible domestic structure.

Ironically, his move came within days of Richmond reaching the semi-finals of the Telford's Bitter Cup by beating the favourites, Leicester, at the Madejski Stadium in Reading. The venue they have rented since local councilors refused them permission to develop their more familiar home at the Athletic Ground in south-west

London. Equally ironically, the club expect their biggest ever crowd for tomorrow's Premiership game with Bath. Meanwhile, Newcastle unveiled their new board yesterday in the wake of Sir John Hall's decision to turn his back on rugby. David Thompson, the information technology tycoon who has bought the reigning Premiership champions and their Kingston Park ground for the grand total of £1, will act as chairman, with Paul Mackings as his chief executive and Rob Andrew as director of rugby. "I believe in the long-term viability of rugby, both in England and the north-east, and I intend to structure a long-term strategy

for the next five years and beyond," he said. On the international front, you might spare a thought for the poor bloody infantry. With the World Cup, a newly expanded Six Nations Championship, a full hand of Premiership and knock-out fixtures and, in all probability, a revamped European Cup, England's finest might reasonably have expected a millennium summer on the sun-lounger. Dream on. It emerged yesterday that Rugby Football Union officials were negotiating a two-match trip to the southern hemisphere, including full-on Tests in Australia and South Africa. Assuming agreement is

## Nash's decision disturbs batting

FOR THE last six Test matches at what used to be called Lancaster Park but now masquerades under the name of the Jade Stadium, the side winning the toss has opted to field first, seldom with the desired result. Dion Nash broke the mould when he won the toss at the start of the second Test and will soon have regretted that he did not follow the contemporary fashion when New Zealand were bundled out for 188. Apart from some early movement which you would expect on the first day from almost any Test team, there was not much in it for the bowlers and New Zealand foundered because of bad batting. While Shaun Pollock bowled well for four wickets, Allan Donald, who picked up three, was not the menace he usually is.

**CRICKET**  
By HENRY BLOFIELD  
in Christchurch

New Zealand 168 South Africa 54-0

Even without moving into line, New Zealand were 18 for 2. There were now some good strokes from Matt Horne and Nathan Astle before Horne drove at Jacques Kallis's second ball without any footwork and was caught at second slip. Gary Stead, in his first Test, now glanced his first ball for four and batted with composure until the lunch interval when New Zealand were 104 for 3. Immediately afterwards, three wickets fell for 11 runs, all to poor strokes, and the innings never recovered in front of a poor crowd.

Astle square cut Donald without due care and attention and was caught at third man. Then, Chris Harris pushed with firm wrists at one which lifted and should have been left alone, while Gary Stead slashed without any footwork and was caught by the wicketkeeper. Mark Boucher, off Donald, who left the field in his 18th over with a slight stomach strain, Pollock and Paul Adams



Paul Adams celebrates the wicket of the New Zealand captain, Dion Nash, in Christchurch yesterday

## Pitch at Sabina 'fit for Test'

SABINA PARK, notorious as the only ground to have forced the abandonment of a Test match, will be ready for the second Test between Australia and the West Indies, the groundsman said. "We are on target for Saturday. We will not be having a repeat of that [abandonment] this time," Pat Gordon, a member of the Sabina staff, said. Management said much has been done to prevent a repeat of the embarrassing spectacle against England last year, which saw the first Test halted after only 10.1 overs. Umpires ruled the pitch was not up to standard after several of the English batsmen were struck by short-pitched deliveries.

**AYR**  
**HYPERION**  
2.10 Red Hot Indian 2.45 Clady Boy 3.20 Vilproam 3.55 Hardecourt 4.25 The Odin Line 5.00 Mr Busby

**GOING:** Good to Soft in places.  
■ Left-hand galloping course.  
■ Course is E of town on A758. Ayr rail station (service from Glasgow) 1m. ADMISSION: Club £14; Grandstand £7 (OAPs half-price). CAR PARK: Free.

**FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS**  
■ LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M. Rowley 36-143 (82.2%), L. Lunge 23-176 (131%), J. J. O'Neill 20-124 (86%), P. Montell 18-109 (12.9%).  
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A. Dobbin 39-167 (20.9%), S. Storey 28-184 (15.9%), P. Niven 18-122 (15.9%), R. Sappell 17-95 (12.9%).  
■ FAVOURITES: 16-112 (28.1%).  
■ BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

**2.10 LOCH DOON 'NH' MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 added 2m**  
1. BODISIA BAY (408) M. Rowley 7.11.8. P. Niven  
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# Merseyside on defence over Fowler furore

Casting Graeme Le Saux as the innocent party has left Scousers seeing red. By Guy Hodgson

TO LISTEN to the radio stations in Merseyside these past 10 days you would think you were in a different country where values have become separated if not divorced from the rest of the UK. Alienation is the word.

The subject that has levered Liverpool off the mainland and into the Irish Sea is Robbie Fowler, who opinion formers have cast as the indefensible since his childish spat with Graeme Le Saux two weekends ago. Well his own are defending him and doing so vigorously.

Not because they have any truck with Fowler's homophobic gestures at Le Saux - even drinkers in pubs in the streets surrounding Anfield where sympathy ought to run deepest found his behaviour unsavoury - but because they perceive the incident has been used as a convenient stick to whack the nation's favourite punchbag: the Scouser. A siege mentality is developing if it has not already erected walls and a moat.

"Reading and hearing the views of many people you'd

think Graeme Le Saux deserved the OBE for putting violence where it belongs," Chris Bascombe wrote in the *Liverpool Echo*. "From now on every time a player is insulted by another, a flying elbow should be meted out. And when the FA investigate the guilty party should hold up his hands and say, 'sorry, but he called me a nancy boy'."

"It should be put straight from the outset that what Fowler did was childish. No one could dispute that. Prejudice, in any form, is a particularly vile vice. However, for the FA to accuse him of misconduct when he has been the victim of a premeditated, and let's be honest here, underhand attack defies belief. Fowler's actions were the result of lack of thought, rather than prejudice."

That is the flavour of the mood and articulated less fluently almost to a man and woman by callers to local radio phone-ins. The gist being that Le Saux has won sympathy because he is middle class, intelligent and out of the mainstream of dressing-room phi-



Stamford Bridge flashpoints: Robbie Fowler (left) shows his backside to Graeme Le Saux as the Chelsea man prepares to take a free-kick, and (right) Le Saux takes retribution against the Liverpool striker. Reuters/Mirror

losophy. Most of all, they believe, he has been lucky that the man crudely calling his sexuality into question is a Scally.

"We do think we're being got at," one supporter said, tapping the torrent of grievance, "and, okay, maybe we've got chips on our shoulders but southern journalists like having a go. You can't deny that." An Ever-

ton fan added: "If you're a Scouser you're scum; it's as simple as that."

Given that 35 years ago even some Mancunians tried to ape the Scouse accent made trendy by the Beatles, this is a massive turnaround in perception socially and culturally. Maybe it is payback time for when Liverpool was as trendy as Carnaby

Street or when the football club that carries the city's name dominated Europe. The feeling flourished with newspaper coverage of Hillsborough and was compounded by the Jamie Bulger murder, where the whole city was made to feel guilty, so suspicion of journalistic motives is rife.

"Every club in the country

will say the media is against them," said Bascombe, who also edits *The Kop* magazine. "But people seem to be almost gloating in Liverpool's decline. And the team is identified with the city. The view has almost become 'Robbie's a Scouser so he must be a bigot', which is complete nonsense. Merseyside has its idols and

its louts but it's not better or worse than any other city in this country."

Alan Edge, the author of *Faith Of Our Fathers - Football As A Religion* and a season ticket holder at Anfield, admits Scousers are raw-nerved but argues they have good reason when some of the clichés attached to Liverpool would be classed as racist if they were levelled at other communities. The Fowler incident, he believes, was jumped upon because it fitted the stereotype of the Scouser as the "anti-social, anti-bourgeois Scally".

"There are ancient shurs," he said, "which paint Liverpudlians as lazy, casual and thieving and more recent ones about us being mawkish and whining. It does get up our noses, especially those of us who know these accusations could be levelled at anyone, anywhere."

"The floodgates of criticism opened with Millant and since then we've had Heysel, Hillsborough, Jamie Bulger and widespread misrepresentation in the media painting a city in decline. There is a tendency among the media to target Scousers and there is also the compensatory tendency in the city to see offence where none has been intended."

Certainly offence has been perceived this time and on Merseyside the suspicion is that if the two protagonists had swapped roles Fowler would still have been cast as the villain for cowardly elbowing Le Saux. Tommy Smith, the former Liverpool captain, subscribes to that view saying the controversy has escalated "with more than a little bit of southern spin".

He says a one-sided picture has been painted "of loutish behaviour on the part of the lad from the north against sheer frustration on the part of an unfortunate family man from the south."

"Le Saux has been cast as the innocent. Sneaking up behind an opponent and elbowing him in the back of the head is clearly an irrelevance when weighed up against the accusations against Fowler. It seems he should be hung, drawn and quartered with his head displayed on a spike at the Tower of London."

That is the voice of Merseyside calling and its echoes of alienation has implications that go beyond football. Just because you are paranoid, as the saying goes, it does not mean someone isn't trying to get you - and Liverpool believes the knives are out.

Premiership struggle: Injury-plagued midfielder admits he was running short on patience as Forest continued to slide

## Time for Stone to shed his troubles

STEVE STONE was unsure whether he should laugh or cry the other week as he returned home on a Saturday night following yet another in a long line of Premiership defeats. Seven days earlier he had endured the humiliation of playing for a Nottingham Forest side that conceded eight to Manchester United. This time, Forest had gone down 2-1 to West Ham at the City Ground.

His wife was there to greet him. Stone takes up the story. "The first thing she said was: 'Oh, not too bad this week, then. You only got beat by two. I put my head in my hands and said: 'You just don't know the right things to say to me, do you pet?' Later I had a chuckle about it. She was trying to be nice and upbeat, but it's pretty sad when even the wife's thinking losing 2-1 is a good result for us."

In such circumstances it was hardly surprising when Stone agreed yesterday to swap Forest's seemingly doomed battle against relegation for a new career at the other end of the Premiership with Aston Villa.

Twelve years at one club is a long time for any player and, to use Stone's own phrase, life at Forest this season has been "pretty average". Despite his usually bubbly persona, and that he was recently presented with the Wilkinson Sword Premiership player of the week award, Forest's plight had been getting to the former England midfielder.

In his time at Forest Stone had a rollercoaster ride of

IAN STAFFORD

Blackpool Pleasure Beach proportions. Three broken legs and three relegations vied for his emotions with two promotions and a nine-cap international spell interrupted by a career-threatening knee injury that saw him out of action for 10 months, during which time Forest went down to the First Division.

"You could say it's never quiet at Forest," he admitted, with a rueful smile. "I think once, just once, I've played for a Forest side that finished around 10th in the League. The rest of the time it's been either gunning for promotion or trying to fight off relegation. It should never have happened to a club like Forest, but we became a yo-yo outfit."

The writing was on the wall from the start of this season, at least as far as Stone was concerned. "For a while we could compete with the big clubs, but not any more. We became a selling club and everyone there, if they're honest, recognised the inevitable once we'd sold some of our best players."

"There have been a number of times this season when, mentally, it's been pretty tough, especially towards the end of Dave Bassett's management. I could recognise a lot of the players losing their self-belief. We'd be one down at half-time and the manager would tell us we



'For a time we could compete with the big clubs but not any more.' Steve Stone indicates why the chance to leave Forest for Aston Villa was so attractive. Robert Hallam

still had a chance and that we should get stuck in. I'd look around the dressing-room, see the expressions on the faces, and I'd think to myself 'absolutely no chance'."

Predictably, the arrival of Ron Atkinson was seen by some to be the answer. Stone begs to differ. "Don't get me wrong about Ron. He's all right. He likes people to be bright and upbeat around the place, and he works hard on the basics. I know he'd come in, change the team around a little and get a few results."

"But he's not a miracle worker, especially with a group of players who go 21 games without a win and are then asked to win something like

nine out of their remaining 18. We should have kept some of our better players, and bought a few more in as well, but it's no use talking about that now. It's over. If Forest don't start winning right now they're down, and could end up in the lowest points ever in the history of the Premiership. Now that would be massively embarrassing."

The previous lows experienced had at least taught him a lesson or two which, in Forest's current plight, had been put to good use. Back in 1996 Stone became a key member of England's Euro 96 squad, scoring a number of important goals in the run-up to the finals. Then injury struck, and Stone

could only watch from afar as his club plummeted along with his own plans.

"It's fair to say I grew pretty desperate at the time," he recalls. "I knew we were going to be relegated and that I'd be returning as a Division One player. It got to the stage where I'd come to a Forest home game, sit in the bar with the players' wives, and not move all afternoon. I'd rather get steamed than watch the match. I began to wallow in my self-pity. It was awful at home because it just wasn't me."

Once again it took his wife to provide her own brand of reality. "She just blew up one day and gave me a right good clip round the ear," Stone admits.

"She told me to buck up. After that I did. It helps having three kids as well. I've got a 10-year-old, a five-year-old and a 23-month-old baby now, and you can't be too depressed at home, can you?"

"For a while it was tough and go whether I'd ever play football again. Only 50 per cent of players recover from the injury I had. So while losing this season and facing relegation has been bad, it's not as bad as it was when I was injured. At least I am paid very well for playing football. I get over losing a match much quicker than I used to."

Stone has also grown wiser. When he renewed his contract with Forest he insisted on a

clause that allowed him to leave the club if they were to be relegated.

His ambitions, to play for a successful Premiership club and to reclaim his England place, remain intact. Yesterday's move should guarantee the former and will do no harm to his chances of realising the latter.

"You've got to be realistic," he says. "I still have massive belief in my own ability, but it's a great deal easier to play in a good team than a bad one, especially when you're on the right wing. I seem to have been chasing most of the time recently rather than actually being on the ball."

"There's a lot left for me to

do in this game. I've never played in a cup final, and I really want to get back into the England team, but you don't stand much chance if you play for a club staring relegation in the face. There are a lot of players who believe they should be playing for a better team than they do."

After his 12 years of dedicated service to Forest, Stone can hardly be accused of being disloyal. Even without his departure, Forest were looking odds-on to be playing in the First Division next season. Stone, on the other hand, can look forward to realising the potential which once made him one of the Premiership's most exciting players.

## Taunton primed to turn the tables

FOR WEST COUNTRY football folk who pay attention to events outside the Nationwide League, Taunton Town versus Tiverton Town is just about the biggest game in the season's calendar.

It is a fixture that in recent years has had a big influence on the outcome of the Screwfix Direct Western League title race, which has been won by Tiverton four times in the past five years and by Taunton in 1996.

Both sides could probably hold their own in the Conference but, for geographical and financial reasons, they have been content with re-

### NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

BY RUPERT METCALF

gional football at a lower level - until now, that is. Tiverton have applied for promotion to the Dr Martens League this summer.

If the Devon side do go up, it will bring to an end their active rivalry with Taunton. The club from the Somerset county town left the Southern League due to a lack of funds in 1983, and they do not feel ready to return.

Tomorrow though, when the two sides meet at Taunton's

Wordsworth Drive ground, much more than league points and regional pride will be at stake. The prize for the winners of two all-ticket semi-final legs is a place in the final of the FA Carlsberg Vase at Wembley in May, against either Bedlington Terriers or Thame United.

If Tiverton prevail after the second leg at their Ladysmead home tomorrow week it will be their third trip to Wembley. They lost the 1993 Vase final to Bridlington Town, but were victorious against Tow Law Town in the same event last year.

After leading until they conceded a penalty in the ninth

minute of second-half injury time, Taunton were beaten in extra time of the 1994 Vase final by Diss Town, so their hunger for success this year may be greater. They have played second fiddle to Tiverton in recent seasons, but now they feel they have the edge at last over their great rivals.

After Tiverton's 2-1 defeat at Bridport on Tuesday, Taunton have a 12-point lead at the top of the Western League over the champions and the Vase holders, and they have played one fewer game. "This year we feel we are at least equal with them, if not better," the Somerset

side's manager, Russell Musker, said. "We can certainly compete."

The ambition for Musker and his men is not just to reach Wembley but to make up for last season, when Taunton were beaten by Tow Law in the Vase semi-finals.

"I've never been so disappointed in all my footballing career," the former Bristol City and Torquay United midfielder said.

"We lost to a side that nine times out of 10 we would have beaten. Everybody at the club was gutted."

This year, though, it could be Taunton's turn to smile.

## Goals tell for England

ENGLAND UNDER-18 are in a strong position to edge out the host nation, Spain, in their campaign to qualify from their European Championship group.

England defeated Andorra 3-0 in their latest match in Rota on Wednesday, while Spain could only overcome Israel 2-0. That leaves England and Spain level on points at the top of the table after they had shared a 1-1 draw on Monday.

However, England have a far superior goal difference and that will be the deciding factor if the teams are still locked together after today's final round of matches. England, who will play Israel, have a goal difference of +8, while Spain,

who finish their programme against Andorra, have a difference of +2. It means, for example, that if England beat Israel 3-0, then Spain will have to win by 10 clear goals to stop England progressing into the intermediate round against Norway next month.

England, coached by David Platt and Nigel Spackman, scored four times in each half against Andorra, who fielded a young and inexperienced side. Goals from Scott Parker, Luke Chadwick, Darius Vassell and Jamie Milligan pensally put England 4-0 up at half-time.

After the interval, further goals followed from Ledley King, Joe Cole, his first at

Under-18 level, Matthew Etherington, plus another penalty from Milligan.

Fifa, the world governing body, has approved emergency medical plans, including evacuation, when Nigeria host the World Under-20 Championships next month. There have been increasing fears over the standard of the medical conditions that exist in the West African state.

Jack Warner, the Fifa vice-president, insisted that the problems have been overstated. "I've been to Nigeria seven times altogether and I have examined every detail. There is absolutely no cause for concern," he said.

JP 11/10/50









# SPORT

HOLYFIELD PREACHES VICTORY P26 • CABANNES SHOWN THE DOOR P29



## Stone rolls Villa's way for £5.5m

JOHN GREGORY took his transfer outlay towards the £30m mark in barely 12 months as Aston Villa manager last night when he paid Nottingham Forest £5.5m for Steve Stone.

But Gregory's interest in further bolstering his midfield with George Boateng's combative talents has led to Coventry City reporting Villa to the Football Association for allegedly making an illegal approach to the Dutchman via his former team-mate Dion Dublin.

After concluding the Stone deal, the Villa manager said: "I'm delighted to have got Steve for our last 10 games, and I hope he's going to help to turn our season round. He's quick, gets around the park well and

**FOOTBALL**  
By PHIL SHAW

can play in any position across the middle. It's a situation we've monitored for a long time and I thought we might have to wait until the summer."

Stone, who won nine England caps during Terry Venables' reign, has exchanged seemingly certain relegation with Forest for Villa's attempt to halt a run of one point from six matches, which has taken them from the Premiership summit to fifth place. He spent 12 years in the east Midlands after arriving as a teenager during the Brian Clough era, making

his final appearance in Wednesday's defeat by Newcastle.

Villa originally tried to offload Stan Collymore to Forest in part-exchange for Stone, but the controversial striker, who is under treatment for clinical depression, would not return to the City Ground. The 27-year-old Stone, whose contract with Villa takes him through to the summer of 2003, follows Dublin (£5.75m), Alan Thompson (£4.5m) and Steve Watson (£4.2m) - the latter due being fellow Georgians - as the major signings since Gregory arrived in February last year.

Gregory, who recouped £12.6m in one transfer alone when Dwight Yorke defected to Manchester United, has seen his lack of squad depth exposed by injuries and illness during Villa's recent poor run of form. A £4.5m offer for Alan Stubbs was turned down by Celtic, while he has not followed up his interest in Bradford's Robbie Blake with a bid.

Villa were, however, successful in landing Cardiff's Mark Delaney for £500,000 this week. While the rookie right back will not be risked against David Ginola at Tottenham tomorrow, Stone will make his debut as Gregory seeks to ensure that his team do not miss out on a Uefa Cup place. Gregory refused to comment on claims by the Coventry chairman, Bryan Richardson, that Dublin, the Sky Blues' former captain, may have been used to sound out the £3m-rated Boateng about a possible move to Villa Park.

Richardson said: "We have clear evidence of an illegal approach to Boateng and his agent on behalf of John Gregory and Aston Villa. We have reported Villa to the FA and the Premier League for a clear breach of all the rules, and a clearly illegal approach to the player with a view to unsettling him - which they have."

"Villa have shown a total disregard for FA rules and we intend to pursue the matter most vigorously. I am not having Boateng stolen from us or unsettled by any other club."

Coventry contend that only after Villa's alleged approach did Gregory contact his opposite number, Gordon Strachan, who told him Boateng was not for sale. The Villa chairman, Doug Ellis, is then said to have phoned Richardson with an offer, which was also rejected, and Villa were warned not to contact either the player or his advisor.

Strachan said Villa's interest had turned Boateng, a £250,000 capture from Feyenoord, from "a very happy young man" to one who was "confused". But he said he had been "absolutely excellent" in training and would play in the home game against Blackburn tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Villa's goalkeeper Mark Bosnich last night told how Stan Collymore's Aston Villa team-mates were kept in the dark over the troubled striker's off-field problems. Collymore's depression, which has been treated at a clinic, came to light when Villa played Fulham in a fourth round FA Cup tie in January.

Bosnich said the players asked for information about Collymore's problems - "but it was not forthcoming."

"He [Collymore] could have told us and he wanted to talk to us, but he was under instructions not to. He told us all he has a certain problem and he didn't want to discuss it further and that was the end of the matter."

The boys on the whole appreciated that," Bosnich said.

Collymore's off-field problems have coincided with a dramatic slump in form for Villa who have declined from championship hopefuls to fifth place having taken one point from 18.

BSkyB should know by April 13 if they can take over Manchester United. That is the latest date by which the Department of Trade and Industry must publish the Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into the takeover. The MMC will submit their conclusions to the DTI today, which then has 20 working days to publish the report.

Stone sheds troubles, page 30

## Fowler writes to Le Saux

ROBBIE FOWLER has released the contents of a "private" letter written to Graeme Le Saux aimed at ending the rumbling dispute over their running feud when Liverpool visited Stamford Bridge on 27 February.

Le Saux was caught by television elbowing Fowler in the back of the head following an angry confrontation between the pair during which the Liverpool striker made offensive gestures towards his England colleague. The Football Association has since charged both players with misconduct.

Fowler has been condemned for his actions, and yesterday sought to defuse the situation by issuing a copy of a letter from him that was delivered to Stamford Bridge earlier in the day. However, under clear legal advice he has been careful not to admit to wrong-doing and again uses the term "misinterpreted" in the letter, having made the same claim in a statement last Friday after receiving Le Saux's letter of apology.

Le Saux sent his letter to Fowler, and the contents of that have not been made public. Now Fowler clearly wants his version of the incident out in the open before the FA hearing, and he released it through his solicitor, Kevin Dooley.

Graham Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional

By MARK PIERSON

Footballers' Association, had expressed his wish to see a more extensive response from Fowler than he produced last Friday after Le Saux's public apology and his own private letter to the England striker.

Le Saux's advisors had said they wanted to scrutinise the contents of any letter of apology from Fowler before giving it their seal of approval.

Fowler's letter, beginning "Dear Graeme" and addressed to Le Saux, c/o Chelsea FC, Stamford Bridge, Fulham Road, Chelsea, London, said:

"I am in receipt of your without prejudice letter about what occurred on Saturday, 27 February at Stamford Bridge."

"I am sorry if you misinterpreted my actions during the game, which were not meant to cause any offence to yourself or anyone else. Hopefully this unhappy incident can now be brought to an end."

"I am sure you share my hope that when we play together again either on opposite sides or on international duty, people have no reason to judge us other than on our footballing abilities. Best wishes, R. Fowler."

Merseyside on the defensive, page 30



Pete Sampras hits a backhand return during his second-round defeat by the Spaniard Felix Mantilla in the Newsweek Champions Cup in Indian Wells

Allsport

**THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD**  
No. 3868 Friday 12 March by Spurius

Thursday's solution

Across

- 1 Fly home by way of Luxembourg in the dark? Absolutely! (3-5)
- 5 No time for articles about desert plants or tropical shrub (6)
- 9 As morgues, perhaps, initially eery? (8)
- 10 Old woman sitting between pupils in exam (1-5)
- 11 Subjects identified by some of the Belgian people (8)
- 12 Worry about queen's trained polecat (6)
- 14 Lump in throat from taking another look at Papa's medal (5,5)
- 18 Vehicle trundling along the Strand (5,5)
- 22 Big drink causing tippler

Down

- 1 Manipulate and stir broken leg (6)
- 2 Rug for the top storey (6)
- 3 French article about being a tenant (6)
- 4 I end up unexpectedly in committee producing
- 6 to lose heart, maybe? (6)
- 7 Stolen biscuits originally seen in picture (8)
- 24 Hard to get into dirty craft (6)
- 25 Structural support for chaps invading a grouse-shooter's place (8)
- 26 Means of transport giving school pupil an advantage (6)
- 27 Fresh representation of English river in coloured frame? (4-4)

book of useful hints (10) Accused left in a pickle - no way out (3-2-3) Lots of whitewash deliveries in small open vessels (5-3) Time a musician will be about to appear nervous (8) Description of something you fancy? (10) Drops of water (3-5) Inconsistency in vocal rendition within confines of Venetian church (8) No half measures - ogle husband shamelessly after finding out how (5,3) Being unenthusiastic, in a way, and starting to yawn? (6) Hearty shout will engage attention mostly (6) Way to confront an unruly adolescent, it's said (6)

## Henman fends off Rusedski

TIM HENMAN recorded his fourth victory in six encounters with his fellow Briton when he beat Greg Rusedski 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 in the quarter-finals of the Champions Cup here yesterday.

It was not exactly pistols at dawn, but Britain's top two seemed a lonely pair as the match began on a chilly, cloudy, desert morning, with spectators still drifting into the Centre Court. So intense was the concentration on both sides of the net, however, that Henman and Rusedski probably would have been oblivious even if the stands had been packed.

Their rivalry has raised British interest in the sport so much in the past four years that it was hard to imagine that this was only their sixth meeting. Two of the previous encounters were purely domestic affairs, with Henman defeating the Canadian-born Rusedski in the final of the National Championships at Telford in 1995 and 1996.

Henman, the world No 7, would also argue that he was unable to match Rusedski's spirit in their last match, in the concluding round robin of the ATP Tour Championships in Hanover last November, because he had already qualified to play the Spaniard Carlos Moya in the semi-finals. Rusedski, a substitute at the last, eagerly accepted a straight-sets win worth enough points to enable him to end the season in the top 10.

Serving being crucial to both players, it was interesting yes-

**TENNIS**  
BY DERRICK WHYTE  
in Indian Wells, California

terday to see who would settle into a smooth rhythm first. It proved to be neither. Rusedski was broken in the opening game, after Henman's mishit backhand found a line on the second break point, and Rusedski capitalised on his opponent's loose first serve in the second game. Henman did not produce a first serve until trailing 0-40. He won the next point, but then hit a backhand long.

Although Henman continued to search for consistency on his first serve, Rusedski was unable to punish him as much as he would have hoped in the first set. Indeed, not a single ace came from Rusedski's racket during the opening period, in which he double-faulted three times.

Rusedski managed to save two break points at 3-3, but was unable to deny Henman in the ninth game. The umpire overruled when Rusedski's backhand volley to the corner was called out on the first set point, at 30-40. A double-fault gave Henman a second opportunity, and the Oxford man's return of serve caused Rusedski to dump a half volley into the net after 41 minutes.

Rusedski won the second set with surprising ease, 6-2, but the deciding set proved to be a close encounter before Henman ran out the eventual winner. One player Henman will not

be facing in either the semi-final or the final is Pete Sampras, who lost here on Wednesday night to the Spaniard, Felix Mantilla. The American shrugged off the threat to his world No 1 ranking, but he could not shrug off another early exit in this tournament. "I'm going to take this hard," Sampras said after a three-set defeat in the second round. "I don't like losing and playing the way I did tonight."

Sampras made 54 unforced errors, including a double fault on match point. He blamed a lack of matches this year, but was quick to say that was not enough of an excuse. "It's not the way I wanted to play here," he said. "I really felt this was a good year for me to do well."

Sampras was playing in just his third tournament of the year, after missing the Australian hard court season. He played at San Jose in February, but withdrew before his semi-final match with a leg injury suffered in the quarter-finals. Last week in Scottsdale, he won one match and lost in the second round to Jan-Michael Gambill. "Not having played many matches this year, you can't just try to find your form," he said.

Two unseeded Americans, Chanda Rubin and Serena Williams, played giant-killers at the Evert Cup, the women's tournament being staged here alongside the men's event. Rubin beat the top seed and defending champion, Martina Hingis, 6-3 7-6, while Williams beat Mary Pierce 7-5 7-6.

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# FRIDAY REVIEW

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Dismiss him, if you must, as unkempt, uncouth and resolutely uncool. Insist, if you like, that his music should remain unplugged. But give the man his due: he outlived punk, survived Paula and has now pocketed millions from Planet 24...



## Arise, Sir Bob, all is forgiven

**T**he British, it is said, are a nation of beguilers. Nothing breeds resentment in our hearts so much as the success of one of our peers. And nothing gives us sneaky, shameful pleasure more than the stumble of a big figure. Bob Geldof, I suspect, gives the lie to this. But then the shambling, unkempt character who has just, at last, managed to make himself a multimillionaire with the £5m he will get from the sale of his share of the TV company Planet 24, has always managed to fail quite to fit any of the moulds into which people have attempted to cram him.

He was always too intelligent to be a visceral punk rocker; too reluctant a campaigner to commit his life to the Third World, too undisciplined and free-thinking to be a politician, too chaotic to run the businesses he launched, too much of a butterfly to finish making the film he scripted when it ran into funding problems, and too raw and restricted musically to make the transition to pop superstar, which is the only thing he would really like to have been. But in all these limitations lie his strengths.

Bob Geldof is the model of the flawed post-modern hero. Like Diana, Princess of Wales, he is a blundering mixture of vulnerability and self-absorption – caught on the tide of change, victim of the ephemeral pop music and shot through with the pain of a messy divorce.

In the old days the ultimate test of someone's character was, they said, to ask: "Is this a man you'd be happy to go into the jungle with?" Bob is not the kind of man, on first consideration, that you would want to meet there. I can't speak at first hand about the jungle, but I have been across the desert with him – from the vast, shifting reaches of the sands around Timbuctoo and the arid uplands of the Abyssinian high plateau when, soon after Live Aid smashed all records for international fundraising, we journeyed through the Sahel to decide how and where the Band Aid millions should be spent.

He shambled across Africa, from the west coast to the east, inappropriately dressed and shod, developing headaches from dehydration (he took no hat, and wouldn't drink enough water) and a septic toe – an injury he made worse by prompt self-surgery in a filthy hotel in

Chad. And yet, for all his incompetence at the practicalities of life in the rough, you could not have hoped for a better person with whom to be entangled. Everywhere he went he raised the morale of the local people and aid workers and, by his unique combination of ill-tempered impatience and a disarming charm, somehow always got others to do the things he would have been so incapable of doing himself.

It is a measure of the preposterousness of his achievement that a figure who was, in his early career, accorded the unheroic status of pop's uncouthest loud-mouth was to be dubbed by the nation both a Sir and a saint – after having been borne shoulder-high by no lesser figures than Paul McCartney and Pete Townshend across the Wembley stage before the biggest audience the world had ever seen.

The incongruity was constant. When we arrived at the palace of the head of state in Sudan, the president stepped forward to present the medal and sash of the Order of the Two Niles. But he tried to pin it on me, since I was the only one in the party wearing a suit, albeit one of the

whopping home phone bill that resulted, refusing even to pay for a cup of coffee out of Band Aid funds. In modern usage, a saint has to be an all-round holy character. But, by the definition of the Church that makes them, a saint is defined by "heroic virtue" – some massive quality which, as time passes, blots out the memory of his or her human frailty and turns the person into a symbol of some overpowering goodness. Perhaps Bob may qualify one day.

But it is key to his character, too, that where others might have turned themselves into full-time advocates for the Third World after Live Aid, seeking a role with Unicef or some such, Geldof decided that he had done enough. It was someone else's turn. He wanted to go back to music.

Yet he was shrewd enough – when a publisher friend asked how much he might make from cutting a record – to switch tack. Around a quarter of a million, with a bit of luck, Geldof had responded, only to be told that he could make double that from his autobiography. We sat down to write it, with Geldof talking into my tape-recorder for hour after hour, and with me

shaping the resulting conversations into a book.

It was a revealing process, as much for what got left out as for what went in. On the tapes he was ruthlessly frank. He spoke with particular vituperation about his father, whose job as a travelling salesman had forced him to leave Geldof and his two older sisters alone much of the time, after the death of their mother before the boy was 10. But he insisted I should talk to his relatives to check his recall. "Don't let him be too hard on his father; it will break his dad's heart," I was told by his Aunt Fifi, after whom Geldof named his eldest child. "No, he was a bastard, put it all in," said the angry young man. I ignored him and toned it down. Interestingly, when he read even that, he toned it down further.

He self-censored other sections of my manuscript which he thought might upset his wife, Paula. "Better not put that bit in. Paula might not like that," he said, of sections which many spouses would have considered innocuous. Throughout the months we were writing, Paula's peculiar presence hovered. Geldof was infatuatedly in love with her. He found endearing be-

haviour which his friends found cause for concern. She engaged, in my presence, in wild fantastical role-playing, for weeks on end acting the role of a perfect Fifties mother from Enid Blyton, then becoming a thumb-sucking Take That fan, sitting all day on the sofa, singing along to the band's videos and refusing to speak.

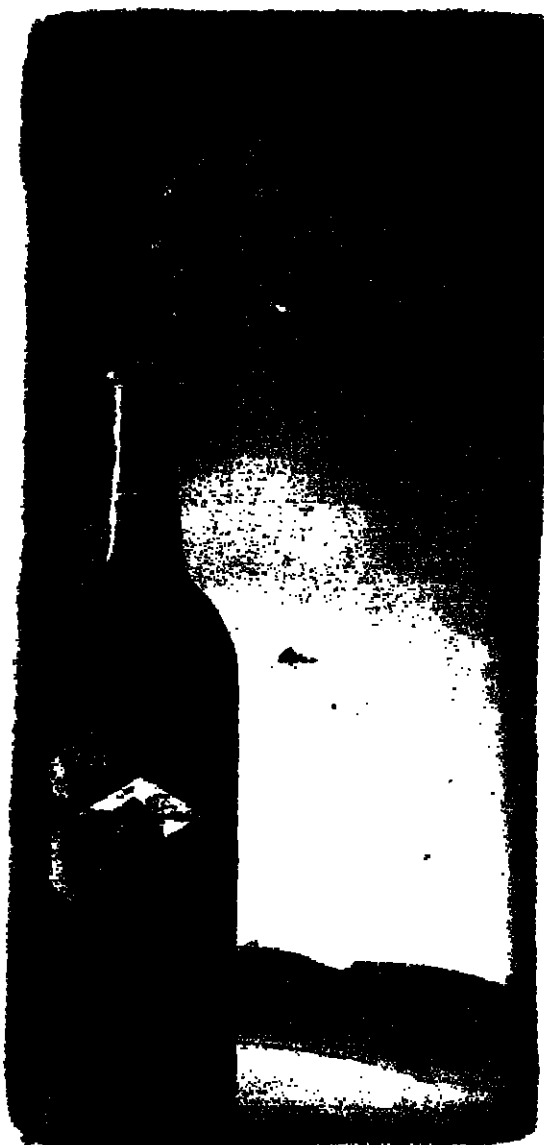
Her behaviour became increasingly odd in the run-up to her affair with the INXS singer Michael Hutchence, culminating in a divorce petition which contained claims that hurt Bob deeply. He said nothing in public, and maintained that dignified silence even after Hutchence's suicide and a series of wild statements that were made about the dead man's final phone call – to Geldof – shortly before he hanged himself in an Australian hotel room. Geldof has not behaved perfectly, but he has behaved as well as most of us could have hoped to in such a messy situation. He keeps trying. He moves on.

Like most of us, however – and unlike many in the ranks of millionaire businessmen he has now joined – he moves existentially from one thing to another without any great plan. Just as he launched the Boomtown Rats in the Seventies because he did not like much of the music he heard on the radio, he launched Planet 24 in 1992 because he didn't like the laced-up style of most of the TV programmes he was watching. (Though he was cunning enough to do so by merging his company, Planet Pictures, with 24 Hour Productions, run by Charlie Parsons and Waheed Ali who, between them, combined creative and business acumen to match Geldof's talent for spinning off ideas he did not have the stamina to carry through.) So now he is talking of launching an Internet holiday company, not out of some shrewd business sense, but simply because he couldn't find one last year when he wanted to take his kids on holiday to Florida. The secret of his success lies chiefly in his hunch that what he wants, others will want too.

The hunch is not infallible. Doubtless he will also return to the recording studio to make yet another attempt to reinvent himself as a pop musician, in the way his heroes such as Elton John and Phil Collins constantly do. For Bob Geldof, the last thing is never enough. He always keeps asking the question we used for the title of his book: *Is That It?* It's a question we all ask, which is why, I suspect, in this age of uncertainty, Geldof remains our stabled Everyman.

BY PAUL VALLELY

### GARNET POINT™



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INSIDE

Letters 2  
Leaders & comment 3-5  
Obituaries 6-7  
Features 8

Science 9  
Arts 10  
Pop 11-13  
Classical 14

Listings 15-16  
Radio 17  
Satellite TV 17  
Today's TV 18

MUSIC





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## Budget motoring

Sir: At last, road tax banding according to engine size, but why stop at one band? Surely at least four bands would be more appropriate, with a sharp rise for those who like to feel four litres or more under their bonnets.

I would also recommend to the Chancellor a special high-rate selfishness band for those four-wheel-drive owners registered to city addresses. Their cars not only emit their exhaust fumes at a height which is more readily breathed in by pedestrians, but also obscure the vision of all those car drivers who are stuck behind them.

KITTY R STARKIE  
Ulverston, Cumbria

Sir: As I fill up with petrol at £3.50 a gallon in the Highlands of Scotland, who do I complain to? It is only £1.80 a gallon in Greece, £1 a gallon in Canada, and 65p a gallon in the USA.

The latest fuel tax rise in the Budget is a disgrace. It penalises every rural resident and business, rich and poor, who rely on motor transport. No doubt increased fuel transport costs will be cited as a reason the next time the petrol companies put the prices up.  
HAMISH MITCHELL  
Crosbie,  
Banffshire

Sir: In a country which offers its wealth-creators a derisory minimum wage at under £4 per hour and in which companies stoop so low as to offer as little as £10,000 for a full time job in far too many sectors, you do not make more people use public transport by making car use more expensive, but by making the already far too expensive public transport much cheaper.  
MICHAEL WRIST  
Ely, Cambridgeshire

## Ritalin children

Sir: I read with interest the review of Richard DeGrandpre's *Ritalin Nation* (5 March). As an educator I am aware that there appear to be children whose behaviour is problematical to their parents, their schools and themselves and for which there appears to be no extraneous reason, such as stressful life events or unwise child-rearing practices. Some such children do appear to be helped by Ritalin and it can indeed, in some cases, effect a radical change within a short time.

Of grave concern to many teachers however is that Ritalin may be being prescribed much too freely and without sufficient follow-up. Some children have led lives so full of events which are stressful or painful to them and so lacking in parental care and control that it would be strange if their behaviour were not affected. Ritalin will not solve their problems.

Doctors may need to be aware that there are parents who take a cavalier attitude to medication and cheerfully double the recommended dosage if the child seems to be getting difficult, and sometimes advise the school to do the same. Some even use the medication as a pick-me-up for themselves.

It is also worth mentioning that the parents of children who are diagnosed as having attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are entitled to an attendance allowance, which could also provide motivation for seeking such a diagnosis.  
SUZANNE TIBURTUS  
Canterbury

## Nowhere to roam

Sir: Most of us live miles away from the areas of heath, moor or downland which are the subject of the Government's "right to roam" proposals. Yet more and more of us want to go for a country walk.

In lowland areas of intensive farming, rights of way often run right across what is now featureless arable land, stripped of hedges and trees and unsuitable for any sort of recreational use. These rights of way are a nuisance

to the farmer and not much fun for the walker - particularly where farmers repeatedly remove waymarks and refuse to mark the path after ploughing and sowing.

These archaic footpaths should be rerouted to reflect contemporary needs. Given the popularity of walking, new footpaths should be created too. Of course the machinery exists, at local level through the parish council, but the problem seems to be just that: at local level in rural England power still usually remains vested in the landowners.

Lowland farmers might be keen to divert walkers away from the middle of arable land, but they certainly don't want to divert them on to their own amenity land - shooting terrain: pheasants and partridge or wildfowling land along the edge of rivers. The high cost of a gun is quite a spur when it comes to lobbying to keep the walker out of woods and pleasant meadow grassland; there is an even greater cost if they happen to shoot a rambler instead of a pheasant.

These matters need addressing. Lowland walkers are still stuck.  
KATE RHODES  
York

Sir: Christopher Luke (letter, 10 March) complains that people using a right of way in Aberavenny walk past his front door and thus invade his privacy.

I suggest he gets out a bit more; not only do people walk past my front door, they also have the temerity to drive their cars, vans and lorries past it as well! This right of way is known as a road; there are quite a few of them in our towns and cities.  
MARK BLACKMAN  
London SE14

Sir: Christopher Luke complains, understandably, about the nuisance he endures because of the footpath which passes through his property. It is easy to sympathise with him and his family, as one also will with people

who live near a motorway, railway or airport.

He has one sure recourse: sell up and move to a place which has none of these nuisances. Of course property near motorways, airports, railways or footpaths is discounted, so he will have to find a little extra cash (which he appears not to be short of).  
PETER WILSON  
Barnard Castle, Co Durham

Sir: Your leading article of 9 March claimed that in welcoming the Government's proposals for a statutory right of access to open countryside, I was undergoing some sort of personal conversion.

No conversion was needed. During my time as president of the Country Landowners' Association I worked hard to promote improved access to the countryside - banging home the legal and political realities to landowners, establishing countryside recreation and access groups with local authorities and all the while trying to reduce confrontation. The CLA promoted

access through voluntary arrangements and, as its leader, I represented that view to government as best I could.

From April I have a new, much broader constituency. I am convinced by my experience that a presumption in favour of a right of access on open country is right, and that the package announced by Government will provide essential clarity for all parties. I firmly believe that sensitively implemented, with the safeguards the Government has proposed, access can be successfully integrated with other land uses to everyone's benefit.  
EWEN CAMERON  
Chairman Designate  
The Countryside Agency  
Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire

Sir: In 1968 Alexander Dubcek famously declared that there is more than one way into socialism. Is Tony Blair taking the scenic route?  
ALEX OLIVER  
Oegstgeest, Netherlands

Sir: Several of the arguments of the director of Friends of the Earth, leading to his conclusion that Lord Sainsbury must go (letter, 11 March), would appear to exclude from government anyone who has practical experience and knowledge of the subject of a policy for which they have any responsibility. I am more than content to see among ministers someone who actually knows something about the subject.  
GEOFFREY MYERS  
Croydon, Surrey

Sir: Horses know instinctively not to eat ragwort and will not willingly do so because it is poisonous to them. Cattle avoid eating buttercups for the same reason. There are many such examples in the wild. Duff Hart-Davis (Country Matters, 6 March) gives us another, that

## IN BRIEF

phases will not be willingly eat genetically modified maize. Will this information be researched? Let the precautionary principle apply. It is not for us to prove that GM foods may be harmful. It is for Monsanto, Agrevo et al to prove that they never will be.  
BRIAN MARSHALL  
Linton, Cambridgeshire

Sir: The implied threat that unless the British government subsidises BMW to the tune of £200m they will take their work elsewhere has to be unacceptable ("BMW tells Longbridge to fight Hungary for car", 10 March). However, it may well be that in the need to preserve jobs the Government will have to give way. If British

## Scan the options

Sir: Annabel Ferriman's article "The pregnant pause" (9 March) provides a balanced view of antenatal screening tests. It does, however, highlight an important contradictory aspect of such testing.

Unless there is a specific increase in risk of abnormality because of past history, tests in pregnancy are offered as screening for abnormalities. These tests should be explained as such and parents should not be offered, or accept, them as "routine".

Even an early scan to confirm the stage of a pregnancy should only be offered with the proviso that there is a chance of detecting signs which may be associated with foetal abnormalities, even though they are not performed for this reason before 16 weeks in most of the country.

Under these circumstances, parents have the opportunity to accept testing if they understand the implications and want to know the results. Parents seek

reassurance of normality, which can never be assured. All screening tests imply a possible need for subsequent diagnostic investigations and perhaps intervention, even though most babies will be normal in the end. If parents do not wish to run the risk of finding potential signs of abnormality, then they need not accept testing.  
SIMON GRANT  
Senior Registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Birmingham

## Celebration

Sir: Your leading article of 9 March states that "Commonwealth Day passed off yesterday with few celebrations". In fact, there were celebrations, but they were not widely reported in the print media.

Over 2,000 people, 1,000 of them school children from all over the United Kingdom, came to Westminster Abbey to hear the Queen's speech and readings from senior representatives of the world's major faiths. They heard music from Australia and the Caribbean and watched classical Indian Kathak dancing to the sound of the sitar and tabla.

The Royal Commonwealth Society and Commission for Racial Equality sent leaflets encouraging celebrations of Commonwealth Day to local authorities, libraries and every school in the UK. A CD-Rom illustrating the cultural diversity and political and economic importance of the Commonwealth is being distributed free to schools.

The Commonwealth Club just off Trafalgar Square is fast becoming London's premier multicultural meeting place. Fundamental to combating racism is understanding and experiencing other cultures and lifestyles. This is what Commonwealth Day is about. Perhaps, next year, the media, including *The Independent*, might bother to report it.  
PETER LUFF  
Director  
Royal Commonwealth Society  
London WC2

## Curb on weapons

Sir: Preventing the global spread of weapons of mass destruction is an urgent priority. Today (12 March), MPs can make their contribution by supporting the Nuclear Safeguards Bill in the Commons.

If enacted, this Bill will enable the UK to ratify an additional protocol to its Nuclear Safeguards Agreement of 1976. This will form part of an international process whereby states are asked to give International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors increased access to nuclear and nuclear-related facilities.

The inadequacy of existing safeguards was demonstrated by the discovery - only made possible following the Gulf war - of a clandestine nuclear weapons programme in Iraq, despite that country having in place a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the IAEA.

To date, 36 states, including all EU member states, have signed protocols with the IAEA but only five have ratified. Early ratification by the UK would demonstrate this country's willingness to take a lead in global efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.  
Dr STEPHEN PULLINGER  
Executive Director, International Security Information Service  
London EC1

## Feminist logic

Sir: As the instigator of the current "male feminist" debate, I must say that I have considered Adrian Coyle's argument (letter, 8 March) carefully and found it to be completely logical, which leaves me in a dilemma. If I can accept an argument on its logic, I cannot see where one's sex comes into it.

I will go on supporting the feminist cause and try to think of a label for myself other than "critic of gendered power relations" which I assume he lifted from *Viz* magazine's Modern Parents. Also, next time I go to an anti-racist march I will be sure to black myself up.  
ROBERT G BREW  
Worthing, West Sussex

Sir: None of the (admittedly few) transsexual women that I know "does" womanliness, any more, presumably, than Adrian Coyle "does" manliness. We are who we are, and we "do" only ourselves.

Nor are transsexuals surgically produced - surgery is merely a means of achieving as much congruence as possible between social role and physiology, and is not available unless that role is well-established.  
RACHAEL PADMAN  
Cambridge

## European family

Sir: I agree with Norman Paterson in his desire not to see another European War (letter, 10 March). But will closer European integration further that cause?

One of the greatest causes of war in this century has been the collapse of empires or states formed from a collection of culturally diverse nations.

A looser collection of friendly and co-operating states (as we have at present) might give us a better chance of peace in the long term. Rather as members of an extended family keep in touch and help each other out from time to time so might the European Union best operate. A more closely integrated Europe might end up like a kind of permanent family Christmas, which, however much you love your family, I wouldn't wish on anyone.  
ANDREW BYNG-HALL  
Teddington, Middlesex

## Classic error

Sir: Children may not be turning their backs on reading the classics (report, 9 March), simply re-interpreting them. I observed work in a primary school where one seven-year old wrote about her favourite book - *Winnie the Pooh*, by Walt Disney.  
HILARY ROBINSON  
South Milford, North Yorkshire

## In the words of Hamlet's father: 'List, list, O list'

Ten things that are said to be good if strong, or even extra strong  
Peppermints  
Ale  
Arm tactics  
Man in a circus  
Feelings  
Box  
Room  
Language  
Bow  
Drink

Ten subjects introduced into pub quizzes in order to baffle the intellectuals and swots who would otherwise know everything and win every time  
TV soaps  
Pop music  
Sport  
TV signature tunes

Video games  
Footballers' nicknames  
Famous moustaches  
History of underwear  
Cartoon characters  
History of crime

Ten unfortunate ways to open a conversation  
"I don't know anyone here."  
"Haven't we met somewhere before?"  
"I'm sure I know your face from somewhere..."  
"You're from Barnsley aren't you?"  
"There's someone in Barnsley who is the spitting image of you."  
"You'd like Barnsley."  
"So, what do you think of this Monica Lewinsky business then?"  
"Did you see the news the other night?"

"Did you see the papers this morning?"  
"What line of business are you in, then?"

Ten unusual phobias  
Agoraphobia - fear of old Greek market places  
Aguephobia - fear of getting diseases mentioned only by Shakespeare, which no living doctor can cure any more  
Agaphobia - fear of being made fun of for having a trendy stove  
Agrophobia - fear of being duffed up by football fans  
Agaphobia - fear of the leader of a small Islamic sect  
Accaphobia - fear of being beaten up in a lawless African city  
Agraphobia - fear of being over-charged by an Indian tour operator



MILES KINGSTON  
Unusual Phobias No 3:  
Agaphobia - fear of being made fun of for having a trendy stove

Acrephobia - fear of not being able to convert English land values into hectares

Eigerphobia - fear of falling off snowy heights  
Agar-agrophobia - fear of any gelatinous substance made from seaweed

Ten poncey words that people use as an alternative to 'two'  
Duo  
Brace  
Duet  
Diptych  
Brace  
Twain  
Coupling  
Tandem  
Deuce  
Twosome

Ten unsatisfying ways to end a conversation  
"Let's agree to differ, shall we?"  
"It's only a game, after all"

"Some you win, some you lose."  
"Don't do anything I wouldn't do!"  
"Good heavens, is that the time?"  
"I've just seen someone over there I really must grab before they go..."  
"Oh, well, it takes all sorts..."  
"I've just realised you're not the person I thought you were."  
"I have just realised you are so pig-headed that I am going to beat you over the head with golf clubs."  
"We must do hunch."

Ten books never referred to by name, but only by the names of the people who started them  
Widsen  
Debreit's  
Burke's  
Roget's

Chambers'  
Fowler  
Pears  
Brewer's  
Larousse  
Webster's

Ten things which are useless by themselves but which we always keep, just in case  
A single sock  
A single glove  
One Monopoly £5 note  
An earring  
Any button  
One screw lying innocently on the car floor  
Fifty-one playing cards  
One phone number on a loose piece of paper, no name attached  
A nearly empty bottle of flat tonic water  
A single spare shoe lace



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## A resignation that is good for Germany and all Europe

WITHIN MINUTES of the news of Oskar Lafontaine's abrupt resignation as German Finance Minister, the value of the euro went up by two cents against the dollar on the foreign exchanges.

Whatever the reasons for Lafontaine's dramatic resignation, that simple fact illustrates why his going had become so important, and so necessary. It is not that Lafontaine was a "leftie", the red menace of British tabloid venom and German cartoonists' delight. In reality he wasn't nearly as far to the left as he was painted. Nor does one accept his departure so easily because the man was so unpredictable in his behaviour and so flamboyant in his private life, although those traits too are becoming less acceptable in today's world. Indeed it is possible to have a great deal of sympathy with a politician who cared deeply about issues such as unemployment, restrictive monetary policies, and the launch of a euro that put the credentials of the new currency above the need to prevent a slide back into recession.

But the reality is that Oskar had become a liability to Germany, to the fledgling project of monetary union, and to the political health of the union. While the British became obsessed with his ambitions to extend German levels of tax and social welfare payments throughout Europe, and to Britain in particular, the rest of Germany was far more concerned with his constant and public rowing with the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder. Like Gordon Brown, Lafontaine never forgave Schröder for beating him to leadership of the Social Democratic Party, and hence to the top job in the country, while Schröder never forgave Lafontaine for driving out his friend Jost Stollmann from an economic ministry almost as soon as he had been appointed.

With division at the top, the German government has been unable to produce an acceptable new tax programme for the country. Even worse, he has ensured his nation has been unable to present a solid face to Europe, whose presidency Germany now has for the first half of the year. At the same time Lafontaine, partly in concert with his French counterpart, has launched a damagingly public campaign to get the new European Central Bank to temper its monetary terms in view of faltering European growth. It was not a silly campaign. The Americans, after all, also want Europe to drop interest rates in order to promote growth. But the hostility of Germany's economic chief did much to undermine the first months of the new euro.

So how much better will Europe now be without him? Germany, the pivotal country in this fledgling project, will be stronger without a divided leadership. Blair will undoubtedly be happier too, solidified in an undisputed



## CAP reform: one step forwards, two back

WE TRY to understand European Union politics, we really do. But this is the sort of thing that illustrates the sheer undemocratic obtuseness which hampers the building of a people's Europe. The EU's farm ministers had before them two radical options for reforming the Common Agricultural Policy. One was to reduce progressively the subsidy paid to farmers to compensate them for ending price supports. The other was to require national governments to bear one quarter of the cost of the CAP in their country. They chose neither, and ended up with a deal which means the CAP will continue to cost the taxpayers of Europe as much as it does today for the next seven years.

Nick Brown, the British agriculture minister, claims the deal will eventually save £1bn a year on food prices in this

country - but what he means is that food prices will not go up by this amount, as they otherwise would. This is scant consolation for the fact that we must pay much more for our food than we need to until at least 2006.

The failure to agree radical reforms of the CAP additionally undermines the EU's stance in its dispute with the US over Caribbean bananas - which cannot be presented as an exceptional case for tariffs as long as the entire EU food market remains so insulated from world prices. It undermines the sincerity of the EU in negotiating for Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Slovenia and Cyprus to join the EU as soon as possible.


And it weakens the whole case for further European integration by emphasising the irrational, opaque and only tenuously democratic processes of decision-making at the centre. Yesterday's deal was a step in the right direction, in that it stopped the bloated farm subsidies getting any larger, but it was a miserable pigeon-toed step which effectively took Europe backwards.

## Who will Tony Blair choose as Britain's new man in Brussels?

WHEN MICHAEL Howard was considering making an appointment to the chairmanship of the Tote in the run-up to the general election he secured, as convention required, the agreement of his shadow, Jack Straw, to go ahead and make it. It was the then leader of the opposition who, instantly seeing that this was an attractive job, for which a Labour home secretary, not to mention a Labour prime minister, could confer a considerable sense of obligation by filling, intervened and stopped the appointment from being made in advance of the election.

All this merely proves, if proof were needed, that Tony Blair has a keen understanding of the powers of patronage. There is nothing remotely indisputable about this. British prime ministers have fewer institutional levers than most of those who elect them realise. The relentless deployment of such as Lord Wakeham's chairmanship of the Royal Commission on second-stage reform of the House of Lords, to relatively minor ones, such as the announcement in this week's Budget by Gordon Brown that Lord Alexander will be heading an enquiry into shipping tax, is precisely part of how formidably the Prime Minister has gathered up potentially oppositional figures into the seemingly ever-widening arc of support for his national project.

One of the appointments which the Prime Minister now has to ponder in the next few months is that of an EU commissioner to replace Sir Leon Brittan when his term of office expires



**DONALD MACINTYRE**  
*If the Government wants to maximise influence in the EU we must have a big, high-profile commissioner*

at the end of the year. Not everyone agrees that he has to ponder it at all, since, as is normal, the Leader of the Opposition has already made his recommendation: that of Sir Alastair Goodlad, John Major's chief whip, whom William Hague rather painfully sacked from the Shadow Cabinet. (Convention dictates that one commissioner, in this case Neil Kinnock, should be of the governing party and the other from the opposition.)

Nor was Mr Hague's a frivolous proposal. Had Mr Hague followed his own instincts by suggesting a deep-dyed Eurosceptic, it would have been deliberate mischief-making. But Sir Alastair, part of the liberal, patrician wing of the Tory party, is a natural though unimpeachable pro-European. He has a strong sense of the British interest. He combines decency with a certain humorous worldliness, which makes him impossible to dislike. Why, therefore, should there be any doubt about it?

First, because while convention dictates that the two commissioners should be from opposing parties, it does not require the leader of the opposition's recommendation to be followed. Indeed there is a list of precedents in which previous prime ministers did not do so. The decision by Jim Callaghan to appoint Christopher Tugendhat rather than John Davies, who was recommended by the then opposition leader Margaret Thatcher, and John Major's to give Bruce Millan another two years in Brussels, rather than accede to John Smith's recommendation of Neil Kinnock, are only two. And secondly, because there is another first-rate and, frankly, better-qualified candidate waiting in the wings.

Here an interest should be declared in passing. Mr Chris Patten is a non-executive director of Independent Newspapers (UK), which owns *The Independent*, but it would be hard to ignore his qualities if he were on the board of a deadly rival. The Prime Minister is already sufficiently seized of them to have put Mr Patten in charge of perhaps the most politically delicate of all of the enquiries established by this Government, that into the future of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Mr Patten was certainly one of the brightest stars of the Tory Party in the Eighties. Had the electors of Bath not turned him out in favour of a Liberal Democrat, he would probably have become foreign secretary when Douglas

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
"It's been pretty tough to keep going."  
Alexander Thyne,  
7th Marquess of Bath and owner of the Longleat estate

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**  
"A lotta cats copy the Mona Lisa, but people still line up to see the original."  
Louis Armstrong,  
jazz musician

## No news is bad news.

Watch the new ten o'clock news from the award-winning Sky News Team tonight.

**SKY NEWS**  
Don't miss news AT TEN

PRINCES ARE not what they were in centuries gone by, nor does the British crown represent for Argentina what it did at the beginning of this century. The local press provides the opportunity for important symbolic battles. Who is visiting us? Why has he come? What attitude should we take to the Prince? These questions have generated very different responses. They have ranged from a respectful welcome worthy of the future monarch

of the former empire to the simple condemnation of "English pirate". At this *fin de siècle* dominated by scepticism and globalisation, it is not enough just to be a prince, and poor Charles has neither the aura of kings nor the glamour of the fashion world.

Página 12, Argentina

IN THE Falklands many people had an "I told you so" attitude when they heard of Prince Charles's comments about their islands and they were relieved that the press reports coming from Argentina weren't true. It reaffirmed their faith in the system. The pressure from both the Argentine, and the

between us and Argentina were most welcome.

*Teoberry Express, Falklands*

THE PRINCE had a king of spades up his sleeve. Lacking an ace to trump the power of President Menem, the key sentence in the Prince's speech was a thrust in the diplomatic fencing over the Malvinas. His argument was surprising and worrying for the future. With all delicacy and formality of style, but firmly, he issued an invita-

tion to "live harmoniously alongside a little democracy a few kilometres from Argentine democracy". These strong words produced an immediate sensation of discomfort among the ministers of the government, despite their efforts to conceal it. No one knew in advance what he was going to say, and no one expected it. The implications of those words fell on the Argentine government like a bucket of cold water.

*La Nación, Argentina*



## PANDORA

HANDEAGS AT dawn at Carlton's next board meeting? The media monolith's plutocratic proprietor, Michael Green, was asked about negotiations with the Hollywood tycoon Barry Diller. "No problem," Green smiled. "He's just an old Jewish queen." Green himself is a Jewish family man with a lively sense of humour. Let's hope his new co-director, Lord (Waheed) Ali, who's just sold his share of Planet 24 to Carlton for six zeros plus two commas, is similarly easy-going. Locals at Tenterden in Kent refer to Ali's long-term partner (and fellow Planet 24 sell-out beneficiary) Charlie Parsons as "the lady of the manor".

FAREWELL, FLAMING Ferraris. After James Archer's wheels fell off this week, the latest sobriquet for Credit Suisse First Boston's futures desk is "the Smouldering Skodas".

CONSERVATIVE EDUCATION policy offends the Government's palate. When the Tory spokesman David Willetts rose to speak in Thursday's education debate, Lucy, the faithful hound of the education secretary David Blunkett, threw up.

JOHN PRESCOTT'S Indian jaunt hasn't loosened his grip over colleagues at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. Our Number One Guy's chief steward phoned in to the departmental morning meeting this week to take a roll-call. Glenda Jackson, Michael Meacher and Nick Raynsford sheepishly indicated their attendance, "as if the boss had just called a school register", says one apparatchik.

CONSPICUOUS AMONG MPs signing an Early Day Motion to support the Royal National Lifeboat Institution this week... Julia Drown.

WE'RE ALL familiar with those rapid-fire emergency-room scenes in *Casualty* (BBC1, tomorrow night) where blood spills, six-packs tremble and the scrubbed ones talk at 150mph. But what are they babbling about? Herewith, the first of Pandora's Subtitles for the Slang-Impaired. Coag screen: test assessing how effectively blood is coagulating. Going off: patient is deteriorating badly. Hopper: a

malingering who fits from hospital to hospital to get unwarranted attention. IV bolus: massive one-shot intravenous drug feed through a drip. Sinus rhythm: normal heartbeat. DOA: dead on arrival. DIC: died in casualty. DIT: died in transit. BID: brought in dead. PO: per ora (by mouth). PR: per rectum. PV: "Ladies only".

SAY IT ain't so, BILL A US tabloid is about to break the story of how Slick Willy had the hots for three female secret service agents. One of them allegedly filed a formal complaint. Bellway insiders say rumours of a marriage split are Hillary's doing; she's playing victim as part of her long-term political strategy.

ARE THE legs coming off William Hague's kitchen table Conservatism? The party's house journal, a newspaper called *The Daily Telegraph*, ran a bold story pointing out that "William Hague doesn't have a kitchen table". Imagine the hapless hack's surprise when she was telephoned by the Boy Blunder, "Alice." Hague chided, "when you came over, we had coffee in the kitchen, didn't we?" Yes, she agreed. "Well, what do you think we were drinking it off?" Oops.

WINNER OF Pandora's saucer of milk this week is *W* magazine, which assembled its style cop to make over Camilla Parker Bowles for its next issue. "She's looking very dowdy and frumpy," says New York designer Carolina Herrera. John Joseph, a Beverly Hills plastic surgeon, is more clinical: "It looks like she's had a fair amount of sun exposure, and the skin has lost its elasticity." The knifeytler of the rich and famous advises immediate laser skin resurfacing - along with a neck- and face-lift. Even Bowles's barnet catches flak. Hollywood hairdresser Art Lima: "She's got to get rid of that weird short Farrah thing." But the cat with the cream is Julien Macdonald, sometime knitwear maven at Chanel and Lagerfeld. The Welsh wool wizard says Camilla needs a "more aggressive fashion attitude, otherwise she'll end up looking like Princess Anne". Macdonald's panacea? Black leather during the day, and at night - red only. "She should be a scarier woman - after all she is anyway." Miao!

Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)

## The day I was named in the House



PHILIP HENSHER

*Parliament is wrong and deplorable and silly, and its activities largely a waste of time*

OK, TODAY'S column is going to be entirely given over to boasting. I don't think I've been so revelling over-excited since my sixth birthday party, to be honest, and now that I'm middle-aged my mum is not, I hope, going to take me on one side and tell me to stop showing off. It's just this: I have been named on the floor of the House of Commons. As Nancy Mitford used to say: do admit.

I was having a quiet little nap at about four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon when the telephone rang. It was a male of mine, calling from his office in the House of Commons. "You'll never guess," he said. "They're asking about you in Points of Order. By name, I mean, by name." "What?" I said. "Not expressing boundless admiration for the deathless prose again, are they?" "No, no, better, much better," he said. "They're slugging you off." And then affairs of state seized him and he had to go.

It wasn't until I got hold of Hansard yesterday that I saw what it was all about. A few days ago I went on Radio 4's *Today* programme to set them right about some minuscule leak that was caus-

ing a tiny fuss that day. A clerk, the head of the administrative team to a select committee, had been discovered to have sent a list of draft questions to a government department in advance of an evidence session. There's a great deal of jitteriness about at the moment as soon as the word "leak" is mentioned, and plenty of MPs could be found to denounce this dreadful

interference with a committee's sovereign rights, this appalling act of collusion, etc etc etc.

Well, years ago I used to be a clerk on a select committee, and if this was a violation of a committee's rights, it was certainly one I used to carry out blithely twice a week, as did everyone else I ever worked with. I mean, select committees are not sessions of *Mastermind*; they are there to establish information, and a committee or a chairman who wants only to make witnesses look ignorant or foolish - stand up Gerald Kaufman - is wasting everyone's time. So, of course, we used to tell witnesses roughly what the committee was interested in, just as we told the committee what to be interested in. The point was to try to keep the whole thing more or less on the rails.

No public official, of course, could say this once MPs had started to express outrage about it, and the House of Commons rather wearily didn't try to defend a universal and indispensable practice. Indeed, they claimed in the newspapers that the official had been disciplined. I don't believe this for a second, but if I had

been her I would have been pretty furious to read in print that I had been reprimanded for doing my job. Anyway, I went on the radio to say how stupid and damaging it was to call these negotiations "leaking". Even Members of Parliament, in the end, ought to be able to understand the difference between this and, say, sending a draft of a report critical of a government department to the relevant ministry and asking them what changes they would like to suggest.

In a way, the tiny row typifies the regular spectacle of the House of Commons at its worst. It has no effective means of defending its own procedures, so it is easy to assume that when they fail to resemble, say, the German Bundestag's, they are quaint, pointless, a waste of time, or even corrupt. In fact, little of all this is eccentric spectacle; most of the apparent pantomime, like the game of musical chairs as a Bill goes into committee, or the slamming of the door in Black Rod's face, is there to announce constitutional principles. I'm not saying that the House's daily practices should not be questioned, but it is extraordinary at what

length discussions can be sustained in the House between people who frankly have no idea what they are talking about. The authorities in the House have the sense, you expect, to make a show of throwing up their hands in horror and then continuing exactly as they did before. But you can't help feeling that a robust response of "this is how things need to be done" would, from time to time, be more appropriate.

Parliament is wrong and deplorable and silly, and its activities are largely routine, or even a waste of time. Of course this is the case, and no one should be more interested in Parliament than in the great world that streams swiftly through its intricate mechanisms. It is customary to announce that nowadays life is elsewhere, in the regions, or in continental Europe. But all the same, I bet you know what I mean about the thrill and excitement of being named on the floor of the House. Anyone would want to boast about it. It still matters, and still counts in a way in which Europe doesn't yet, in a way in which the Church doesn't any more; and it isn't just nostalgic sentiment that says so.

## The truth is that science is boring to schoolchildren



CHARLES ARTHUR

*The trouble with teaching science to children is that it's chiefly a method, not just a body of facts*

LONG, LONG ago, when Peter Mandelson was in charge of the Department of Trade and Industry, I went to see him launch a campaign to get more girls to take up science at school. The venue was a school in Camden, and, of course, the only suitable place to launch such an idea was in the science laboratories themselves.

It was not an auspicious choice. The event was delayed because a fire alarm went off - caused, it was said, by faulty wiring in one of the school's four laboratories. Then before we trooped back in to hear Mr Mandelson announce that £25,000 would be spent printing posters and somehow persuading secondary school girls that science really is fun, a member of staff sidled up to me.

"Ask him how long it is since the laboratories were refurbished," the teacher said. "Because I've been here 20 years and they've certainly never been improved in that time." "Do you think that old laboratories like this give pupils a good message about the value you put on science?" I asked.

"What I think is a good message," he replied through gritted teeth, giving me a look that would deselect a Labour MP at 50 paces. "Is how much money is going into science in the classroom, and investment in the interface of science laboratories and teaching in our schools."

Whatever that meant, it didn't disguise the fact that on the board where safety glasses should be, pair No 30 was missing; or that some of the potentiometers (used to vary resistance in electrical circuits) looked as though they had been handed down from Thomas Faraday. I'm prepared to bet, as Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Week starts today that the No 30 pair is still missing and that the potentiometers have not been replaced.

Contrast that gloomy thought with the news, reported in this paper earlier this week, that "narrative non-fiction" - and especially science - is enjoying a boom among publishers. If you want to read up about superstring theory, look no further than your nearest bookshop, where Brian Greene's *The Elegant Universe* will lead you gently but thoroughly into a comprehension of 11-dimensional space. Science books are enjoying a boom. So are science programmes on TV. People are fascinated by science and scientists, and especially by the power they wield in the modern age.

However, power also leads to fear, especially if you don't understand how it is that the scientist gains that power. And while it may seem like a huge leap from Peter Mandelson in a run-down school laboratory to the sort of concerns - most of them groundless - expressed over, say, genetically modified foods, there is a clear link.

The trouble with teaching science to children is that science (and, by extension, engineering and tech-

nology) is predominantly a method, rather than being just a body of facts.

It is important for the science student to discover that when you perform experiments all sorts of things don't happen as you want them to: that copper sulphate, while having interestingly shaped crystals, is very hard to measure out exactly (unless you grind it, in which case it's hard to keep track of the bits). Or that repeating 19th-century physics experiments in such a way that you get the same results is in fact extremely hard.

Learning to "do" science, rather than just "learning" science (such as the sequence of hormones in the menstrual cycle and pregnancy - a group of facts I learnt at school whose value has become clear only 25 years later) is difficult. It puts people, including girls, off. To be honest, I'm not sure whether gleaming new laboratories would make much difference. You have to like the practice, not the theory.

However, it is through carrying out the experiments that a scientist is truly born - fired, if you like, by the flame of the Bunsen burner. Graduate scientists know that textbooks may offer all the answers, but they hide the long slog involved in getting there - all the peculiar data usually dismissed as "experimental error", and the joy of being able to make your experiment work not once but twice and then three times.

It is much easier, though, to read a book. Which is why although fewer people are applying to do science and engineering at university, and fewer are taking science subjects at A-level, we have a publishing boom for science books.

Is that a bad thing? If we are truly headed for an economy in which knowledge and science are the keystones, then yes, it is bad that fewer people are now doing science. It is



How can we enthuse girls with science? Howard Barlow

always better to be a producer than a consumer.

In addition, reliance on pre-digested information means that when a new technology, such as GM foods and crops, appears on the horizon, the non-scientist's first reaction is panic. Professor Steve Jones, an expert in genetics at University College London, remarked this week that: "the story of GM foods has been the biggest disaster for the national understanding of science in the past decade... everyone, on both sides of the argument, seems to have suspended their critical faculties, just because science is involved."

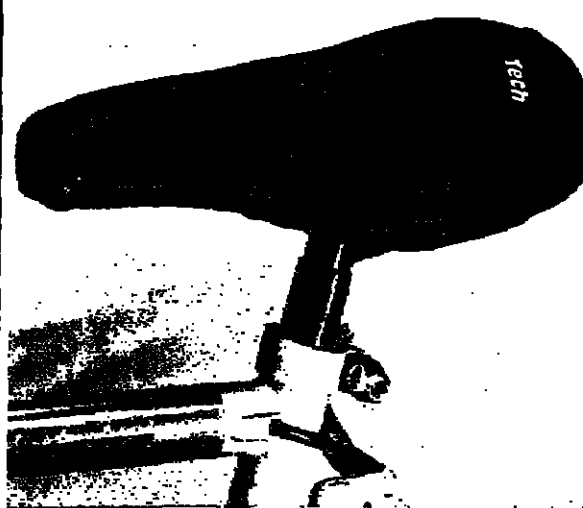
It is interesting to note that Professor Jones - a geneticist, but not an expert in genetic manipulation - did when he wanted to find out more: he asked other scientists who would know about it, and weighed up their answers for himself. He carried out the procedure. The reaction of the public, by contrast, has been to try to find ready-made answers. I have to admit that I don't hold out much hope for SET Week breaking

through the public's ignorance about science, and particularly in getting people to understand the science questions that matter to them - such as the safety of GM food, whether or not genes define your destiny, and perhaps even whether the universe really is made up of superstrings. That is because they will have been turned off the practice of science long ago, in those antiquated school laboratories, despite the best efforts of ministers.

Not even Peter Mandelson was immune from that indifference. On that November day in Camden, he recalled his own science teaching: "My headmaster tried to get me to do arts and chemistry A-levels, each in a single year. I didn't. In my end-of-term report he wrote, 'I have tried to show Mandelson the path to greatness but he has chosen to ignore my advice.' And look," Mr Mandelson said, "at where I am." Perhaps he should have done accountancy instead of art. But the chemistry might have been a useful fallback.

## THE INDEPENDENT

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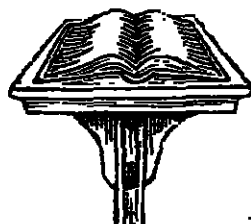
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## A continent infected with corruption



## PODIUM

STEPHEN ELLIS  
From a speech by the Dutch academic to the Royal African Society of the University of London

CRIMINALS ARE people who break the criminal law. But what happens when people pledge to execute the laws of a country - policemen, officials, cabinet ministers, heads of state even - themselves contravene this same legal code massively and repeatedly? I am referring here not to misconduct of the type alleged against President Clinton in the Starr report, but to such major crimes as large-scale fraud, drug-trafficking, the counterfeiting of currency and murder or incitement to murder.

In recent years it has become clear that this is a question which anyone observing Africa has to think about. But the phenomenon which I am calling the criminalisation of the state is not by any means unique to Africa. There are other places where the apparatus of the state has been used for criminal purposes on a scale greater than anything seen in Africa, and where professional criminals may have assumed senior positions in government. Russia and Mexico spring to mind. In Europe, Italy has some of the hallmarks of a criminalised state.

Africa stands out only in that, of all the continents, it is the one in which the state as an organisation capable of upholding a monopoly of legitimate violence has declined the furthest and where, in some respects, the interaction of state and society can be studied more fruitfully in this regard than elsewhere.

Let me be slightly more specific about what I mean when I speak of senior state officials who break the laws they are pledged to uphold. Concentrating only on Africa, we might consider first the recruitment by government ministers - or simply by friends and relatives of the president, as happened at the time of the genocide in Rwanda - of private armies, or the use of official armies and security forces for purely private purposes.

This has taken on the most tragic proportions in the Great Lakes region of Africa. It is hard to imagine any crime more serious than the use of organised violence, including large-scale murder, by private persons or for private purposes. It challenges the core of modern ideas about what a state is and what it is for.

Secondly, the engagement of state officials in major forms of illegal trade, such as drug-smuggling. This has occurred in several African countries, such as Equatorial Guinea, where some 20 diplomats have been arrested abroad carrying cocaine or heroin in the past 10 years, most of them close to senior ministers or to the presidency. Many of the culprits were promoted on being expelled from their countries of

accreditation. Of all African countries, Nigeria has gained the greatest reputation in the drug trade.

We should also look at the counterfeiting of the national currency by the head of state, such as was done in Kenya in the early Nineties, and the involvement of senior officials, including of the central bank, in major financial frauds or money-laundering schemes, such as has been recorded in Nigeria, Cameroon and Kenya.

The contravention of the national law by officials who, in theory, are required to play a central role in upholding their own national laws, sometimes up to and including the head of state, has become sufficiently common for us to need to think seriously about some of the implications. Elements of this can be seen not only in the countries I have mentioned but also in such major powers as China and India. Clearly we are talking about something different from what is most widely regarded as corruption, that is, an official soliciting a bribe for some service or taking a percentage of a public works contract. We could almost call that "classical" corruption.

Corruption implies deviation from a set of norms or laws. But when such activity is blatant and systematic (and involves those required to uphold such norms or laws) it can hardly be regarded as a deviation; rather, it has become the norm in every respect except the letter of the law.

It is apparent that the stuff of power - the accumulation of wealth and the control of legitimate coercion - is closely related to both politics and crime. A politician and a pirate resemble each other quite closely (which does not mean that it is impossible to distinguish between them). I am by no means the first person to point this out (in fact, it is mentioned by that great African intellectual, Saint Augustine). But it is a lesson that is well worth relearning if we are to understand the modern world. We need to understand the accumulation of wealth and power in its historical context rather than to prefer to believe, as we characteristically do at present, that these are temporary deviations from a norm of good governance which is destined to take over the world.







# Andreas Feininger

"TO ME," wrote Andreas Feininger, "any photograph worth looking at must be a reflection of life, of reality, of nature." Bauhaus architect, *Life* magazine photo-journalist, obsessive chronicler of the natural world – for 60 years Feininger was an incessant maker of photographs.

He was born in Paris in 1904, the son of the painter Lyonel Feininger. The family moved to Germany where Lyonel Feininger taught and worked with Marcel Breuer and Joseph Albers at the Bauhaus school of art and design. Andreas joined the Dessau Bauhaus in 1922, and by the late Twenties had qualified as an architect.

But it was photography, not architecture, which was to be his principal preoccupation and he soon began to make important technical and aesthetic experiments. Starting transfixed into the camera's lens, modernistically severe in wire glasses and spottily against a dark background, he made a self-portrait (in 1927) which was an enduring statement of his radical intent.

In 1931, Feininger was working as an architect in Hamburg. He was selling photo stories too, principally through the Berlin agency Dephot. When he moved to Paris in 1932 to work for Le Corbusier, he spent his spare time photographing on the streets, intrigued not by people, but by street signs, doors and shutters, gateways and shop windows.

But the idyll of European modernism ended as the Nazis gained power, and in 1933, Feininger left for Sweden. His first book of photographs, *Menschen vor der Kamera* ("People in Front of the Camera"), appeared in 1934. In Stockholm, he finally abandoned architecture and became a professional photographer.

At first, he photographed buildings and industry, and worked on his photo-book *Stockholm*, which was published in 1936. *Recherché* technical processes, including the shimmering reversals of solarisation, the graphicness of reticulation, and the sculptural qualities of bas relief became increasingly intriguing to him. His 1939 book *New Paths in Photography* (published in the United States after his move to New York in 1939) remains a classic explanation

of modernist photo-technique.

When Feininger arrived in America, he soon found commissions. He worked for the Black Star agency and by 1941 was a photo-journalist on *Life* magazine. Though early assignments revolved around architecture and industry, it was the work which emerged from his increasing preoccupation with the minutiae of the natural world which established him as a formidable presence in photography.

He suggested stories to *Life* which manifested his absorption in landscape. He travelled throughout America, to the Rockies, the Ozarks and the Mississippi. His intense study of the natural world had begun in the late Forties; a carpenter ants'

*'I look at objects of nature primarily with the eye of the structural engineer who is fascinated by the inter-relationship of function and form'*

nest photographed in 1948 becomes a stigmatised monument in a universe of insects, the egg capsules of a weevil, made in the same year, is a convoluted marvel of modern engineering.

Form had always intrigued him, and he began to look to the very structure of the animal world for subjects for his photographs. He shone bright light through the skeletal skull of a crucifix catfish and produced a photograph of intense and sculptural strength. He took a section of a horse's hip joint and made a lunar landscape of pitted starkly lit bone. "I look at objects of nature," he wrote in 1974, "primarily with the eye of the structural engineer who



Feininger's photograph of a Venus comb murex (*Murex tiremis Perry*), 1970

is fascinated by the inter-relationship of function and form."

When he left *Life* in 1962, Feininger had completed over 300 assignments, shown at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and held his first one-man exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History. Most recently he helped to assemble 80 of his favourite black-and-white photographs, taken between 1928 and 1988, for a retrospective exhibition that has been touring Europe since 1997.

Feininger became highly respected as a writer and exhibitor. During the Sixties alone he published a book almost every year. In 1965, he issued his most important

technical publication, *The Complete Photographer*, looking through it more than 30 years later, its vitality and commitment, the directness of its language, are as striking as ever. "To see as the camera sees," he advised, "a photographer must mute all his senses except sight. There is no feeling, meaning, implication or value involved except the graphic values of form and texture, colour, light and dark."

Feininger's technical expertise, aesthetic insight and plain speaking earned him a huge audience. By the end of his life, he had published more than 50 books, technical works and collections of his own photographs. But he never became a

guru. His books were for everyone, his photographs elegant, serious studies of a world which we can all recognise. His writing demystified photography at a time when it was fashionable to make it complication and elusive. For Andreas Feininger, the natural world was a marvel of shape and pattern, of endlessly intriguing physical complexity, not a salve for the troubled soul, nor a panacea for angst.

VAL WILLIAMS

Andreas Feininger, photographer and writer: born Paris 27 December 1904; married 1933 Gertrud Hagg (one son); died New York 18 February 1999.

# Philip Donnellan

SERIOUS TELEVISION documentary film-making may be out of fashion in these days of fly-by-night feabites but what goes round comes round. One day film students will search the BBC archives for the work of Philip Donnellan to find out how to do the job properly. Donnellan pioneered the use of the new medium of television to give a voice to ordinary people.

Although his manner and accent were those of the patrician establishment – an essential asset in the internal politics of the BBC's bureaucracy – his vision was radical and subversive of the corporation's top-down value system. He respected the subjects of his films. He believed they had something to say that was worth hearing. And he saw his role as a technical enabler, allowing them to say it.

The people he filmed demonstrate his determination to open the ether to voices that usually go unheard – seafarers and fishermen, steelworkers and miners, Irish migrants and travelling people. Asked once what had happened to the creativity of the working class, he replied: "It's in their speech." Such an approach does not endear you to the mandarins; he was seen as a maverick throughout his working life. But he survived the system for 36 years and managed to make nearly 100 films, most of which were broadcast; some won awards.

Philip Donnellan was born in 1924, the son of a schoolmaster in Reigate. Leaving his boarding school at 16, he trained as a reporter on local newspapers in Surrey, dashing about on a bicycle to see where bombs had landed. War service in the Army – he joined the Seaforth Highlanders on his 18th birthday to get as far away from home as possible – took him to India, Burma, Malaya, China and North Africa with No 5 Commando and ended in Intelligence in Gibraltar.

In 1948 he applied to join the BBC in Birmingham and, although he heard of his father's death on the morning of his interview, he got the job – first as a radio announcer and newsreader, then as a writer and producer of radio features which were carefully scripted and read live by actors in the studio. When portable tape recorders became available in 1954 he moved into the collection and editing of actuality, along with Charles Parker, creator of the sound collage *Radio Ballads*.

Donnellan moved into television as a documentary producer in 1958, working exclusively on film and developing the contrapuntal use of sound and image. He was known as an extravagant producer, using vast quantities of film stock when only a small amount was shown; he was a perfectionist.

Much of his television work paralleled what Parker was doing in radio – using the words and songs of ordinary working people, directly presented without the intervention of an intermediary commentator, to share their experiences and concerns. It was typical of his openness and honesty that he would show the crew filming – in Brechtian style, he liked to expose the real situation.

When he made *The Fight For Shelton Bar* in 1973, about the struggle against the threatened closure of a Staffordshire steelworks, he invited the steelworkers into the cutting room to help edit it. The BBC chucked them out on the grounds of editorial independence.

The theatre director Peter Cheeseman applied the same techniques to his work on stage at the Victoria Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent, creating company-devised musical documentaries scripted from interviews with ordinary people. All three men were involved with Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger in the folk revival, excavating and celebrating the traditional music and oral heritage of the working class.

"He was bloody impossible to work with," Cheeseman says, "but when you made a film with Philip you were his friend for life." His passionate commitment to the subjects he filmed continued after the broad-

cast – after *Where Do We Go From Here?* (1967) about travelling people, he became involved in gypsy liaisons; after making *BD8*, about the problems of blind people, in 1968, he founded the *Shropshire Talking Newspaper for the Blind*.

His films reflected his obsessions – with the sociology of industrial life (*Joe the Chainsmith*, 1958); with marginalised minorities (*The Colony*, about West Indians in Birmingham, 1964); with authority and the individual (*Six Men*, about men of power in 1965); with imperialism and its consequences (biographies of Nehru, de Gaulle, Nkrumah, T.E. Lawrence); with working-class culture (*Half a Smile from Stoke*, about the Potteries painter Arthur Berry, 1976).

But the films he would probably most want to be remembered for are *Pure Radio* (about broadcasting history, 1977) and *Gone for a Soldier* (1980), a two-part about squaddies in the British Army from 1815 to 1979 which caused a furore for its anti-war empathy with the other ranks.

A tall, imposing figure, in the early days Donnellan was something of a dandy. One close colleague remembers him with a silver-tipped cane saying, "You must come back to my chambers," which turned out to be a dingy room in a boarding house. Later he changed his image, wearing fishermen's smocks and, intermittently, a beard.

His widow, Jill (they met in 1948 at Bush House, where she was a secretary with the BBC World Service and later became an announcer herself) says the change of style was a slow evolution. "At first he was absolutely dashing in a tweed suit, everything matched," she says. But when he moved from being a newsreader to a documentary producer he dressed down to blend with the ordinary people he was interviewing – "That's why people talked to him so well." They moved from the *Daily Telegraph* to *The Guardian* at the time of Suez.

"I might have been playing golf and bridge for life if I hadn't met him," Jill says. "But through him I have met an extraordinary range of people." Together they built up a collection of about 100 pieces of



Donnellan: voice of the people

vernacular pottery – handmade or decorated mugs, jugs, loving cups as used for serving drink by ordinary people – which is now lodged on permanent loan at the New Victoria Theatre in North Staffordshire.

Philip and Jill had four children. Tom is a lighting designer in Spain; Rebecca a broadcaster in France; Philippa a dancer in London and Polly a community worker in Kilkenny. "He was a bloody hard man to live with," Polly says, "but he made me aware of the people around me."

In 1988 he wrote a book, *We Were the BBC*, which Jill describes as "a non-Asa Briggs history". It awaits publication. Most of his films are kept by the British Film Institute; those with an Irish theme (his family came from Galway) are in the National Film Archive in Dublin.

ROBIN THORNER

Philip Donnellan, documentary film-maker: born Reigate, Surrey 9 February 1924; married 1952 Gillian Berry (one son, three daughters); died Passage West, Co Cork 15 February 1999.

# Professor Margot Jefferys

MARGOT JEFFERYS was one of the founders of medical sociology as an academic discipline. Her teaching and research over more than 30 years helped to establish the thinking, now commonplace, that social factors contribute significantly to health.

The seeds of her career were sown in 1953 when she went to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. There she taught what later became known as medical sociology to public health doctors and general practitioners at postgraduate level. Her research into health and social services in Buckinghamshire resulted in the book *An Anatomy of Social Welfare Services* (1965).

During this period she developed networks of like-minded social scientists, including Ann Cartwright and Raymond Illsley, who gathered together to discuss issues such as social class and health. More formal gatherings at this time were less successful. One participant of the 1956 Medical Research Council-funded meeting at the London School on the role of sociology in medicine commented that medicine was looking for a docile wife but sociology was non-compliant. Jefferys was disappointed but undaunted.

In 1965 she was appointed Direc-

tor of Social Research and Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Bedford College, London University, where she remained until retirement in 1982. Recognition of her subject came in 1968 with her appointment as the first ever Professor of Medical Sociology. Following the Royal Commission on Medical Education (The Todd Report, 1968), she was invited to develop undergraduate medical sociology in the London medical schools, now *de rigueur* nationwide.

The masters degree in the sociology of medicine which Jefferys taught from 1969 became nationally and internationally renowned. Many of her students are now key players in medicine or sociology. Later as a consultant to the World Health Organisation, she helped launch an international research programme in behavioural sciences and the sociology of medical education.

Her work with GPs was of crucial importance, both practical and academic. The seminal 1970 report of the British Medical Association Working Group on Primary Health Care which she chaired was perhaps the most independent of the BMA Planning Unit's reports. From that year to 1982 the DHSS funded her team on primary health care: Jefferys' *Re-thinking General Practice: dilemmas in primary medical care*, co-authored with HESSIE SACHS, appeared in 1983. In November 1988 the Royal College of General Practitioners gave her an Honorary Fellowship: one among many honours accorded to her at home and abroad.

She was born Margot Davies in India in 1916, coming to England aged eight to be educated at Berkhamstead School in Hertfordshire. She had started out as an economic historian, graduating in 1938 (with first class honours) from the London School of Economics. Her first academic ap-



Jefferys: medical dilemmas

pointment was at Bedford College in 1949, where she researched *Mobility in the Labour Market* (1954). Taught at LSE by R.H. Tawney and Eileen Powers, she retained throughout her life a strong commitment to thorough historical scholarship.

A deep belief in equality, liberty and justice guided her life, in politics and academe. Events of the 1930s – mass unemployment, hunger marches, the civil war in Spain, Nazi persecution of Jews and political opponents – led her, as many other intellectuals, to the Communist Party. In this context she, with James Jefferys whom she married in 1941, became an ordinary worker in munitions factories in Coventry. Margot stayed in the CP until Soviet tanks crushed the Hungarian uprising in 1956 when, along with others who shared her values, she left. Thereafter she worked with former comrades in the "new left" to rethink the way forward.

After her "retirement" in 1982 Jefferys continued her research, publishing the well-received collection on ageing, *Growing Old in the Twentieth Century* (1989). This research and many national and international contributions continued while she held a visiting professorship at King's College Centre for Medical Law and Ethics.

Robert Mapplethorpe; Andy Warhol included him in his 40-minute black-and-white silent film *The 13 Most Beautiful Boys*. This was in 1964, the same year Warhol's painting *The 13 Most Wanted Men* was removed from the New York World's Fair.

Edey was a man of habit, not just that of collecting. He maintained an impeccable townhouse on the Upper West Side exactly as it had been in the late 19th century, including working gas jets. He used to stroll in Central Park wearing plaid Bermuda shorts, short black socks and brown wingtips. He awoke at precisely five in the afternoon.

At night he worked on his clocks and his diary, an obsessive task which had occupied him since the age of six. This massive, many-volumed

work covering more than 50 years promises to be a revelatory document and even a potential best-seller, covering everything from downtown 1960s Bohemia to travels of 19th-century leisuredness. Edey took with him a large and ancient camera; his interest in photography included taking his own old-fashioned images as well as collecting Man Ray.

A hint of Edey's impeccably researched prose can be gained from the two books published in his lifetime. *French Clocks* (1967) was one of the first books in English on the subject: A knowledge of French clock-making involves the study of many different subjects: cabinetmaking, bronze-casting, the manufacture of machinery, the evolution of theories of time, sculpture, even porcelain, the composition of metals, and some astronomy.

This slim collector's guide also carries several plates of such rare clocks from his own collection as a Green Horn wall bracket by Gille Laine from 1745, a Tête de Poupée by Balthazar Martinot from 1680 and a Pendule Religieuse by Gosselin from 1690.

In 1982 the Frick Collection mounted the first important exhibition of French clocks in the United States. Edey was the guest curator and nine of the finest works were from his collection, though his name was modestly omitted from the list of lenders. It is to the Frick that Edey has left 39 pieces from his collection of around 60 clocks and watches, a donation of incomparable magnitude, as well as his diary. In the book of the Frick show, *French Clocks in American Collections*, Edey demon-

strated his taste in prose as well as timepieces: After the Revolution, clock cases were less often worthy of the best movements, and less often the carefree sumptuous objects that they had been. They gradually lost the faded sweetness of the ancient régime, taking on in its place a harsh chill.

Elsewhere in this essay, Edey's words could serve as his own epitaph: Thus the market was much reduced, and a certain spirit of taste was killed, a taste that had taken centuries of increasingly refined living to develop.

ADRIAN DANNATT

Winthrop Kellogg Edey, clock collector and diarist: born New York 18 June 1937; died New York 22 February 1999.



Edey: a man of habit

WEALTHY ECCENTRICS are as rare in America as they are commonplace in Europe; a Puritan culture ensures that even the best endowed remain workers rather than playboys. Winthrop Edey, however, was an exemplar of the Manhattan eccentric who, like many so labelled, was also vastly learned.

Edey's expertise was in antique clocks and watches, and he was a nonpareil scholar and collector. The family funds which bankrolled his exceptional collection removed Edey from the obligations of academic tenure, museum directorship or auction-house employment, any of which could have been his for the asking.

His middle initial, K, honoured his grandfather Morris Kellogg, who had won gargantuan sums of money

designing oil refineries and America's atomic-bomb plants. Edey was known as "Kelly", a diminutive of the very Kellogg which had made his life of leisure and connoisseurship possible. Kellogg's daughter, Edey's mother, a mainstay of the Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception, set up the first outpatient vasectomy clinic. Edey himself grew up on Long Island, attended Amherst College and the Institute of Fine Arts in New York.

He was equally knowledgeable about ancient Egypt, 18th-century literature and the history and practice of photography. His social set included as many *louche* avant-gardists as elderly timepiece dealers, queens of the New York night, along with antiquarians. He knew the notorious

work covering more than 50 years promises to be a revelatory document and even a potential best-seller, covering everything from downtown 1960s Bohemia to travels of 19th-century leisuredness. Edey took with him a large and ancient camera; his interest in photography included taking his own old-fashioned images as well as collecting Man Ray.

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JP 21/10/50







# Never say never again

It may all sound like the stuff of a particularly clichéd TV mini-series, but Campbell has also – and to her credit – continually spoken out against racism in the fashion industry: compared to her (white) supermodel sisters she has graced far fewer covers and has failed – until Wella came along – to sign up with a cosmetics company. As a catalyst model, unlike some of her less politically aware contemporaries, she resists being lumped with the token 'exotic' outfit.

So what's the world love to hate, Naomi Campbell? There are the legendary tantrums, of course. She famously attacks unsuspecting women who cross her path, from other models who are allocated outfits she'd like to wear, to her former

personal assistant (of nine days, last autumn) Georgina Galanis, who is filing a \$2m lawsuit against her, claiming Campbell grabbed her by the throat, punched her and hit her on the head with one of her many mobile phones. These are hardly enough to justify the glee with which the media reports that she and the likes of Cindy Crawford, Christy Turlington and Linda Evangelista, are headed for troubled times.

That is only one side of the story, however. This month, Kate Moss who, like Campbell, is often described as the last of the supermodels, is on the cover of every magazine from *W* to *Dazed & Confused*, and from *ES* to *The Face*. Cindy Crawford, Campbell, Linda Evangelista and Christy Turlington were on the cover of last year's best-selling issue of *American Elle*.

It is ironic that the most recent Fall of the Supermodel story was generated by a reported rift between the designer Donatella Versace and Naomi Campbell. Campbell - who has appeared in every Versace show since Gianni Versace died in July 1997 - was conspicuous by her absence at the Versace shows in Milan last week. The pair have by now made their peace, however, which is entirely predictable. The twice-yearly collections held in New York, London, Milan and Paris are famous for generating just this type of spat. Campbell has seemed on fine form on the catwalks for both Antonio Berardi and Louis Vuitton.

It must have been tough on her, none the less, despite claims that it was her own decision not to appear and especially as Gianni Versace was the man responsible for the rise of the supermodel and their celebrity status in the first place. Versace realised that if he boasted even one

The moment that encapsulates the supermodel phenomenon at its most brazenly glamorous is best attributed to Gianni Versace. When he sent Campbell, Turlington, Evangelista and Crawford down the runway *en masse*, miming the words to George Michael's "Freedom" (they had recently starred in the video) in March 1991, he made fashion history. Here were four women who were as self-confident as they were beautiful: model role models, they exuded money, power and self-confidence in a milieu that is famous for its exploitation of young women.

This precedent was set in the Sixties. Whereas in the Fifties, modelling was the preserve of aristocratic women making a respectable living as a prelude to finding wealthy husbands, by the next decade, cheeky chappie photographers such as David Bailey and Terence Donovan introduced sex to the equation: often, it seems, at first hand. Their aesthetic was less wholesome: the

The model fared no better in the Seventies. The fresh-faced, girl-next-door looks of the Shrimp and her ilk were replaced by the more decadent likes of Jerry Hall - discovered when an agent placed his card in her bikini bottoms at Cannes - and Marie Helvin. This was the decade of the shark agent, when drugs took hold of the industry - in particular, cocaine.

It was not until the Eighties that the supermodel was born – and the media's love-hate relationship with her began. Designers recognised their potential, the media couldn't get enough of them and, as still very young girls, they unsurprisingly lapped up the attention. The supermodels turned the image of the model as (fashion) victim on its head, demanding inflated sums of money and terrorising designers, agents, photographers, hairdressers and make-up artists alike. They said things like "I don't get out of bed for less than \$10,000 a day" (Linda Evangelista, 1990). Her friend Christy Turlington claims to this day

None the less, only a few seasons later, a backlash ensued and the very people who made these women stars in the first place (Versace is a notable exception) couldn't wait to slap them down. They were simply too young, too beautiful and too rich to be tolerated. They had risen to fame in the Eighties, the most ego-driven, power-thrusting era of them all. By the mid-'earing sharing' Nineties, the less-in-your-face super-wal Kate Moss was not just popular, she was obviously manufactured, skinny, string-haired and looked prepubescent (again). The supermodels still loomed large, however, even if the media's excuse was negative publicity. Naomi Campbell, in particular, continues to do so.

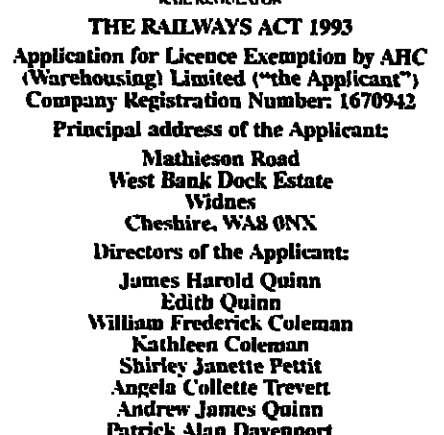
By the time President Clinton called attention to the heroin chic controversy a few years later, fashion had moved on again. For the past few seasons, more anonymous models are the order of the day. Karen Elson, Erin O'Connor and Devon Aoki—the latter (pictured left) is the

Fresher on the scene, however, the more obviously lovely Gisele and Carmen Kass do more resemble the Campbells and Crawford of this world. None is likely to become a household name, however - the *Zeitgeist* wouldn't accommodate it - which is why magazines, both here and abroad, are retracing the celebrity route.

That leaves Naomi — and only Naomi — as the last supermodel to regularly appear at the shows in person. Her contemporaries prefer to leave the collections to young blood, taking the world by storm with the odd, exclusive, photographic appearance.

Campbell said this week that, these days, she sometimes feels like "Grandma" on the catwalk, a poignant observation for a woman who's still only 28. Despite that we simply can't get enough of her — warts and all.

## Public Notices



**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO THE SECRETARY  
OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT  
AND THE REGIONS FOR CONFIRMATION OF BYELAWS  
RELATING TO THE WEST ANGLIA GREAT NORTHERN  
RAILWAY LIMITED RAILWAY**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 61 of the Transport Act 1962, and

The Insufficiency Act 1986  
BARWOOD CROFTON  
LIMITED

PETTY PERSONAL DIVISION OF  
RECORDS UPON TRIALS  
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE  
REGIONS FOR CONFIRMATION OF  
BYELAWS RELATING TO THE CARDIFF**

**RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED** (Railway Company 1962 and section 195 of the Railways Act 1925) and **Cardiff Railway Company Limited** have made byelaws relating to the Cardiff Railway Company's railway and intend to apply to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Regions for the consent of the Secretary of State for the Regions for the proposed byelaws. It is the policy of the byelaws in respect of the proposed application for confirmation to be made can be expected free of charge for a period of 20 days starting from the date of this notice appearing between the hours of 10.00 am and 5.00 pm on 20th October 1993. The proposed byelaws are limited registered office, Brunel House, 2 Finsland Road, Cardiff CF1 1SA and the ticket office at Cardiff Queen Street Station and a copy of the proposed byelaws may be inspected at a charge of 90p either by attending or by writing to any of those places.

Notwithstanding the 20 day period any person affected by the new byelaws may make representation to the Secretary of State for Transport, Environment, Transport and the Regions, Zone 3/53 (Bye-Laws), Great Western House, 70 Marsh Lane, London SW1P 4RP.

Byelaws may be inspected at the offices of the Secretary of State for Transport, Environment, Transport and the Regions, Zone 3/53 (Bye-Laws), Great Western House, 70 Marsh Lane, London SW1P 4RP.

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS FOR**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CONFORMATION OF BYELAWS RELATING TO THE LITS RAIL LIMITED RAILWAY**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 67 of the Transport Act 1968 and section 124 of the Railways Act 1993 that LTS Rail Limited has made byelaws relating to the LTS Rail Limited railway and intend to apply to the Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the

Reasons for his contribution:

A copy of the bylaws in respect of which application for confirmation of the constitution of the company was made, is the first of a series of documents starting from the date of this notice appearing, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10.10 Monday to Friday at the LITS Real Limited registered office, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 90

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Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Staple House, Staple Gardens, Winchester SO23 9EJ - no later than 12 noon on the business day preceding the meeting.

For the purposes of voting, a recurrent creditor is required to lodge his statement of account with the Registrar at Staple House, Staple Gardens, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9EJ.

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**MARK STEEL**



## ON LOCATION

I COULD never stop being astonished at meeting famous people. Last year I interviewed Jimmy Hill, and it was a battle not to shout "Christ almighty, you're Jimmy bloody Hill, off the telly, who everyone takes the piss out of. Someone take a picture or my mates will never believe me".

But nothing compares to being on Radio 4's *Any Questions*, live from Sandwich. As I sat among the commuters on the train through Kent, I vacillated between two thoughts:

"Wahey, I'm on *Any Questions?*", and "Aaaagh. I can't argue with cabinet ministers on the radio - I got kicked out of a Comprehensive school and still eat chips in the road." At the station, I was met by Gerald Kaufman and Jonathan Dimbleby, and transported a hundred yards by leather-upholstered Jag to a hotel. There, as we entered, were tables laden with

immaculately prepared fish, salads, meats, trifles, and cheeses, which were clearly for show. I nibbled a salmon, and listened to Gerald Kauffman tell a story about going to Nicaragua with Harold. Not "my mate Harold", or "this bloke called Harold", but "Harold", as in Harold Wilson. Again the instincts had to be quelled. For normally, hearing someone say this, I'd say "Oh right. You went to Nicaragua with Harold Wilson, did you? Well, I went to Guatemala with Benjamin Disraeli!"

This was worrying. Here was a leading government politician, and he was genuinely fascinating and honestly charming. What if during the programme he said something outrageous? I'd go to deliver a fuming tirade, and then think, "But he's ever so pleasant. And he passed the pâté without me asking".

This is a process which dampens all journalists and

## MARK STEIN



## ON LOCATION

politicians. Formally, they might stay as radical as when their career began, but over time their speeches lose their edge and evolve into playful banter. Kenneth Clarke is probably charming. And Peter Mandelson, and Ann Widdecombe. I bet there were journalists in Cambodia who said "But when you get to know him Pol does tell amusing anecdotes"

As it transpired, it was the novelist Frederick Forsyth who was the pot-boiler on the programme. Responding to the Macpherson Report, he launched into tub-thumping praise of police activities. This won initial support from the audience, most of whom were members of a organisation called something like The Order of the Sandwich and District Society of Aldermen, Anglican Parishioners, Yeomanry, Scones, and Home-Made Marmalade.

The men wore Kent County Cricket Club ties, and the women had silk scarves and pearls. This is the land of *Daily Telegraph* readers and gravely driven Yet Forsyth's outstanding achievement was to be so rude that he turned this audience into supporters of the ranting Trot - he began one outburst against me with "I've FORGOTTEN more about history than you ever knew - boy"

"I must say, young man", said a chap in a blazer at the reception afterwards, "I don't know how you restrained yourself from clocking him one".

"You're making me feel I was soft on him," I replied. He then leaned into my ear and said in a marvellously clipped RAF accent "I

Then someone clapped their hands and said they'd like to thank everyone who'd worked so jolly hard to make the evening such a success, and "Last but by

no means least, may I thank Mrs Whittaker, who's surpassed herself again with her sausage rolls".

Their enthusiasm made it impossible not to feel affection for the burghers of Sandwich. It would be easy to write off these people as irredeemable Thatcherites. But most of them are still subject to the fallout of government and economic turbulence. Their local transport has been

transport has been dismantled, their hospital is under threat, and a local headmaster lamented the damage done to education in the area by selective schooling.

Equally, it would be fascinating to get to know - leading politicians personally, to enjoy their company, and chortle at their whimsical tales of sharing a hotel room with Harold Macmillan. But how easy it must be to slip, without realising it, comfortably into their world, so that the next time

someone screamed about tuition fees or attacks on single parents, you thought "Oh, but Jack and David and Robin are lovely people really".

I know. Because I recently overheard someone slagging off Jimmy Hill. And I only just stopped myself from saying "Oi mate, don't be like that. 'Cos once you get to know him he's a really nice bloke". And he's Horowitz.

**To advertise in this section please call  
Siobhan McCaul now on 0171 293 2347.**







# My year with Stanley

Sara Maitland had never seen a film script when Stanley Kubrick asked her to write for him. Though their difficult collaboration ended in failure and frustration she would gladly do it again

One morning in 1995 the telephone rang. I answered and a gruff voice said, "This is Stanley Kubrick. Would you like to write a film script for me?" Assuming this was a joking friend, I replied, "And this is Marilyn Monroe and I've been dead 30 years." He laughed. It really was Stanley Kubrick.

This slightly surreal episode was the beginning of one of the most exciting, frustrating, confusing and educational periods of my professional life. For a brief time I was Stanley Kubrick's scriptwriter.

Why you? I am asked with unfattering amazement. Without undue arrogance, I was rather a sound choice. He wanted me to work on the long-promised "Kubrick's AI film," although he always called it "Pinocchio." He was fascinated by Artificial Intelligence. He wanted to effect a cultural change. If robots are made by us and act like us, why are they not our children? He complained about *Blade Runner*, that it was that difficult to determine who was a replicant - why did it matter? Why do they have to be hunted down? He believed computers will become truly intelligent, including emotionally, and are potentially a more environmentally adaptable form of human being: they are our future. The film was intended to make us love them.

By the time I came to the project it had become enormous, unwieldy, unfocused. Kubrick needed some through-line of fairy tale, of story beneath plot. He was creating a new myth and needed someone who was at home with myth and how it works. At the same time, the technology and the scale - which spanned at least three millennia - were overwhelming the story. It needed a writer who dealt with the little, the nuances of interrelationship, of the minute movements of human hearts and especially, since maternity was an important theme, of women's hearts. Kubrick had encountered my short stories and recognised that that is what I do. I write about the underbelly of human emotions in the framework of myth and fairy story.

He did not want an experienced scriptwriter. He wanted a storyteller. When I told him I had never seen a film script, he was delighted. He wanted a running text, not a script: filming it was his job. He boasted that there was no sentence in the English language which he could not make into film. We played a game in which I had to come up with unfilmable sentences. "She perfectly repressed her anger" was one that gave him pause.

He wanted sentences to film. Sadly I could not deliver for him. He wanted to make this film, really wanted to. I wanted to write it. So why didn't it work? I am not sure now that it was makeable: he had played with it too long so that it had to be perfect and at that scale nothing is going to be perfect. Perhaps he could turn anything into film, but this presupposed an infinity of time and resources... and even then it may not be possible to invent a myth in that individualistic way.

It didn't work between him and me because I was not the right sort of writer. I have to write out ideas to be confident of them: he had to be persuaded by ideas very quickly, before he wanted time spent on them. I need space and silence and time:

he wanted engagement and immediacy (and obedience). I had the wrong size of ego: too large to hand my creative skills over to him passively, too small to believe I could sometimes know better than him.

But it also did not work because he was impossible to work for. This is part of the Kubrick myth. It was also true. He had more energy than anyone I have ever met. He dedicated himself to the project and he expected everyone around him to do so too. While his energy was directed at our work he would ring up repeatedly at ridiculous hours, wanting total attention, now. He was completely involved and did not understand that anyone might work in a different way. Once, when we were stuck, I managed to say that I and the story needed some space. How long? he asked. A month, I suggested. He looked at me and said, "I couldn't." Then he laughed and, in an unusual moment, told me everyone who had ever written for him had asked for the same thing, but he had come to realise he just could not leave his project with someone else for that long. We finally negotiated 10 days. We parted and I drove home, barely an hour away. By the time I got there there were three messages from him on my answer machine: all of them demanding an immediate response. There was no apology, no mention of our recent agreement.

He was famously arrogant. I asked him

*He boasted there was no sentence in the English language which he could not make into film*

once he imagined "active" robots would look in a few thousand years. "How ever I make them look in this film," he said. I felt envious, not aggrieved, by this. I admired his sense of his own power. Because he was arrogant, he got the films made.

He was also supposed to be paranoid, and sometimes I did wonder. Small, compact, bearded, often wearing a boiler suit, he did not look like someone who abhorred physical contact, but at our first meeting he conspicuously avoided even the customary handshake. I never saw him touch another person. He loathed journalists, especially British journalists. In a conversation I mentioned a friend of mine was a journalist. "Do you know many journalists?" he demanded. "Yes." "If I'd known that," he said calmly, "I'd have had a non-contact clause in your contract."

He was profoundly secretive. There was a silencing clause in my contract - I could not talk about the film. I now suspect that lots of other writers worked on this project: but he would never say who or what or why they had stopped, or even if they had stopped. I would like to meet other people who tried to write this story with him; and discuss what film we all thought we were working towards. The idea of our getting together would have appalled him. Once I left a message about the script with his PA and got a tremendous ticking off about work I could talk only to him.

But does this constitute paranoia in any clinical sense? He was busy and he was reclusive; he protected his privacy. Inside

his protective cordon he was warm and friendly and his large household was relaxed and friendly. He lived, rather unromantically, between Luton and St Albans, in the house originally built for the founder of Maples furniture store: an Edwardian pomposity, set in large grounds. His "office" was the old billiards room, rather charmingly unaltered with the scoreboard still on the wall and replicas of the original heavy velvet curtains. Only the billiard table itself had been removed, replaced at one end of the room by a desk and at the other by an awe-inspiring and, to me, mysterious, bank of film-stuff: TV screens, videos, and electronic wizardry.

On a couple of occasions we went from there through a warren of ex-servant quarters to the enormous kitchen-cum-sitting-and-dining-room. Under the central kitchen-island each of the half-dozen dogs had a recessed bed. It was very like my kitchen would be if I was rich and famous. The whole household, including the staff, seemed to drift through these informal lunchtimes. It was chaotic, fun, normal.

He was one of the best talkers I have ever met, flamboyant with his ideas, interested in yours, widely read, fiercely intelligent and demanding; and seriously funny on a good day. But in the end he was interested in the film, not in me. He was savagely impatient. He could be rude when thwarted, even in minor matters. Eventually it became clear that I wasn't giving him what he wanted. I began to feel bullied instead of excited, less and less able to wheel as he wanted, less and less eager to do so. I started to grumble to my friends, while feeling a failure.

One day he handed me a book called *Vietnamese Novellas* by Schnitzler. I must read "Rhapsody," it was a wonderful story, it would make a wonderful film. So I read it and it didn't grab me. That was the end. It had grabbed him. (I now know it had grabbed him 20 years ago, but he spoke as though he had only read it the night before.) It is the basis of *Eyes Wide Shut*. "Pinocchio" was on hold. The cheque for completion of my contract arrived and I never heard from him again.

That sort of thing makes people angry. This week someone said that Kubrick was a great director but a "failed human being." I recognise the feeling, but know for me that is a defensive reflex: it means he failed to love me or, rather, my work. Kubrick made some great films, marked as his, in an almost old-fashioned way. He had a long-lasting marriage and his numerous dogs liked him. He adored his grandchildren; they were perhaps the only personal topic he ever mentioned. I wouldn't mind being that sort of failure.

I thought I was angry until I heard he had died. Then I realised that I hadn't really quite given up hope that when he had finished this little film, he would come back to the big one; he would ring up again one day and let me work with him - and even though it would be horrible and frustrating again, I would say yes.

I am proud that I worked for him. He made me interested in film writing - I know I want to do so again. And I am sad; I think we have lost someone magnificent.

Sara Maitland's novel, *Brittle Jaws*, will be published in May by Little, Brown



## LOST WORLDS: THE FILMS KUBRICK NEVER MADE

### Napoleon

Kubrick was obsessed with the French emperor and spent years planning a suitably epic film. The director constantly compared his method of film-making to the way the French emperor fought his battles in their strategy, planning and execution. Jack Nicholson was interested in playing the title role. Shooting was at one point scheduled for winter 1969, with MGM agreeing to back it, despite having suffered a number of expensive flops. However, it was dogged by delays and by 1974 was dead in the water.



### Aryan Papers

In 1991, Kubrick bought the rights to a book, *Wartime Lies*, about a young Jewish boy who is forced to flee Poland when the Germans invade. He joins up with an aunt, and together they become involved in the black market. Kubrick sent out scouts to hunt down locations in Denmark for "Aryan Papers", as he called it, but his interest in the project gradually evaporated. Some say he abandoned it because of its similarities to *Schindler's List*, although that problem had never deterred him before: Vietnam epics *Platoon* and *Hamburger Hill* were both released before *Full Metal Jacket*.

### 2001: Part Two

Kubrick turned down an offer to direct the film of Arthur C Clarke's *2001: Odyssey Two* in 1984, and the job instead went to Peter Hyams. There have been suggestions for years, though, that Kubrick had something special lined up for his fans when the year 2001 came around. One persistent rumour had him deep into a project which involved him shooting segments of the script for two months every five years, with the story following an actor as he aged in real life.



### AI

(Artificial Intelligence) was a fable set in the far future about an android searching for a way to become human (hence Kubrick's "Pinocchio" references). It was to be set in a flooded Manhattan, where the tops of the skyscrapers protruded from the waves. Kubrick had felt for a long time that special effects technology wasn't up to the job. In 1993, though, *Jurassic Park* convinced him the time had come. At one stage, Brian Aldiss, a writer Kubrick hired to work on the script, was sacked after breaching his contract by leaving the country without Kubrick's permission.

MAXTON WALKER

## Woman on the verge of a telephone call

THIS CRITIC would queue to see Amanda Harris perform the shipping forecast. Indeed, there were moments during *Take the Fire* when I began to think it would have been preferable. The evening consists of four monologues by Jean Cocteau, in whose works the charlatan and the genius tantalisingly weave and dart. Unfortunately, when he composed these, the genius seems to have been *en vacances*.

On a bare stage and in a trim

### THEATRE

TAKE THE FIRE  
LYRIC STUDIO  
HAMMERSMITH

black two-piece Ms Harris begins and ends the proceedings lying full length by a silent telephone - the archetypal image of womanhood kept on humiliating hold by a two-timing bastard. Well, I say womanhood, but gay male emotion appears to have

projected itself so massively on to these monologuing dames as to have the effect of virtually reducing them to a victim-complex got up in the defiant glad rags of drag.

Or rather it would, if it weren't for the warmly attractive talents of Ms Harris who is all the more moving for heightening the droll intelligence behind the pained sensual flourish and desperation. Her performance is subtly and winningly camp, only because camp is one

strategy for coping with the unseen or silent men in the plays; the saving charm is that you don't feel the actress is being camp as a way of coping with that other oppressive male, Jean Cocteau. No one can flash a smile of more radiant raunch than Ms Harris or convince you that she is amusing some private part of herself as well as others.

My favourite piece was "The Dame of Monte Carlo", a ballad in synoptic rhyming couplets about

a woman on the game at the gambling tables, a reckless gambler who is eventually exposed and thrust out. The other items in Paul Garrington's artfully shaded production strike me as poorer versions of other works - *Le Bel Indifférent* is inferior to both Cocteau's own *La Voix Humaine* and to any number of plays in its understanding of the power relations between a couple where one does all the talking. Here, the actress-mistress hurls herself against the rock

of her lover's silence. Jabbering away to diminishing returns, Ms Harris comically progresses to the tragic end of her tether via a series of spot-on theatrical impersonations - from a Tennessee Williams faded belle to a Fie, Madam beauty-spotted heroine.

All very accomplished, but as I remarked to a female colleague on the way out, it will be nice to see Amanda Harris playing a woman again.

PAUL TAYLOR



Amanda Harris Geraint Lewis

## EN Parsifal

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Wagner

THEATRE  
TAKE THE FIRE  
LYRIC STUDIO  
HAMMERSMITH

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PAUL TAYLOR



Amanda Harris Geraint Lewis

### IN SATURDAY'S DESIGN PAGES

Top designs for babies

Your Money, page 11

## The magic is missing

AFTER MONTHS of hosting big-league companies, Sadler's Wells is paying its dues to the local community with Green Candle Dance Company's new *On the Road to Baghdad*. This spectacle adapts a novel by the Turkish-American writer Guneli Gun, which in turn recycles Middle-Eastern folklore, history, Sufism and *The Thousand and One Nights*. The put-upon picaresque heroine is Huru, who staggers through a tapestry of extraordinary events, monstrous characters and demons who appear and disappear. It is magic realism given a predictable, 20th-century feminist slant.

The choreographer and dancer Fergus Early started Green Candle as a community project 12 years ago. So how do you judge community perform-

### DANCE

GREEN CANDLE DANCE COMPANY  
SADLER'S WELLS  
LONDON

ance? With an indulgent smile, if the production is devised and presented solely by amateurs who dance, act, sing and play music. Our heroine travels not only between Istanbul and Baghdad, but also 800 years backwards - and, at three hours, it certainly felt like it.

Emma Cater's Huru is on stage all the time and has a sweet singing voice, but is not a strong enough focus. Early, playing the small role of Huru's father, is relatively harmless; but Jason Lahav's green-skinned demon needs to loosen up his verbal stiffness.

The evening lights up with the Turkish actor Umut Ugur as a roguish alchemist, whose brief, but weighty, presence and voice suddenly make you sit up. He also took part in an exquisite, fantastical aerial ballet, with figures suspended in a night sky, tipping over and tangling with each other. But, in general, the work's dance rarely rises above movement sequences and is shakily performed.

The cast of (almost) thousands was made possible by the volunteers, whose ages span from five to 75. Their obvious pleasure makes this Arts Council-funded project worthwhile, but given its extensive scale and preparation, it is a shame that basic skills were not more rigorously pursued.

NADINE MEISNER

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# MUSIC



Sly Dunbar (left) and Robbie Shakespeare: acclaimed as the masters of groove and propulsion

Kalpesh Lathigra

## The rhythm kings

Drum'n'bass is at the heart of popular music and for 20 years Sly Dunbar and Robbie Shakespeare have been acknowledged the best. But who are their own favourites? By Charles Shaar Murray

**D**rum'n'bass: it's the foundation of popular music, the engine which drives rock, pop, soul, funk, jazz, reggae, and anything else you care to name. And for more than two decades, Jamaica's hardest-hitting drummers have been drummer Lowell "Sly" Dunbar and bassist Robbie Shakespeare, acclaimed as masters of groove and propulsion. The breakthrough was in 1977 with The Mighty Diamonds' "Right Time", a revolutionary record, with Sly's radical drumming matching the singers' insurrectionary lyrics blow-for-blow.

Since then, they've manifested in a variety of guises: as members of Black Uhuru; as producers (they were behind Chaka Demus & Pliers' string of pop-reggae hits a few years back); as hired guns for artists from Grace Jones to Ian Dury; and as artists in their own right with a series of dubbed-out rhythm organics culminating in their current *Strip to the Bone*, a dense, hallucinatory team-up with reggae terrorist Howie B. As Black Uhuru lead singer Michael Rose used to chant, "Robbie Shakespeare hit you when you're near, Sly Dunbar hit you from afar".

Sly Dunbar defines "groove" as "a wicked, wicked drumbeat. If they can dance off of that, you add a bass to concrete it, to shape it into a song. If that's gwan, everything all right. A little guitar, a little keyboard thing on it, like making a cake: different tastes to make it perfect".

So it seemed a reasonable notion to ask the Rhythm Killers who they regard as the champs in their field. Their nominations go something like this.

groove was right. Not really ever a bad song come out, everything was wicked, wicked, wicked.

Sly: If you check all the Motown songs, they always have a memorable bass-line. If you play 10 Motown songs, you remember the bass-lines. Any musical person could sing you the line: you remember the bass-line more than the lyric of the song.

Picks: Jr Walker: "Shotgun"; Temptations: "My Girl"; Miracles: "Get Ready"

Stax rhythm section  
Donald "Duck" Dunn, replacing Lewis Steinberg, (bass), Al Jackson Jr (drums)  
Sly: Al Jackson was the greatest recording drummer. When they were going to record (Bill Withers) "Ain't No Sunshine", which Booker T (below) produced, they'd just got a drum kit that day at the studio, and he took it out of the box and played it as is. All he did was tighten the snare. Another time he was playing live and the snare drum burst. So he just pulled over a tom-tom and started beating on that. Nobody even knew the snare drum had burst. For a drummer, if the snare goes, it's like everything has gone.

Robbie: Donald "Duck" Dunn was wicked, but I never knew 'til lately that he was the one who played for Stax. I don't get to do my reading!

Picks: Booker T & the MGs: "Green Onions"; "Time Is Tight"; Wilson Pickett: "In The Midnight Hour"

Various Atlantic rhythm sections  
Primarily Chuck Rainey

(bass), Bernard "Pretty" Purdie (drums)  
Sly: Bernard Purdie was wicked; he used to do all the (New York) Atlantic sessions with (producers) Jerry Wexler and Arif Mardin.

Robbie: Then there was the Muscle Shoals rhythm section. I don't know their names. I haven't done my research and I feel like a dummy.

Picks: Aretha Franklin: "Rock Steady"; Herbie Mann: *Memphis Underground* album

Various Channel One and Studio One rhythm sections  
Including Boris Gardiner (bass), Leroy "Horsemouth" Wallace (bass)  
Sly: Credits don't really exist in Jamaica. You come to England and everybody knows from word of mouth who played what in Jamaica! Credits started when (producers/handlemen) Bunny Lee put the name of the musicians on the record and it started from there. Somebody come from England and know everything 'bout every music who play what on what. We say, "What? Me na know!" Before that it was "backed by the Bunny Lee All-Stars" or "the Joe Gibbs All-Stars". Who is "All-Stars"?

Pick: Heptones: "Why Did You Leave Me To Cry"

wicked song, you know it's a wicked song. So much groove when they played!

Picks: "Duppy Conqueror", "Crazy Baldhead"

The Beatles  
Paul McCartney (bass), Ringo Starr (drums)  
Sly: Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, they proved themselves from time. They really have a track record.

Pick: "A Hard Day's Night"

The Rolling Stones  
Bill Wyman (bass), Charlie Watts (drums)  
Sly: Charlie Watts? Wickedest drummer!

Pick: "Satisfaction"

The Who  
John Entwistle (bass), Keith Moon (drums)  
Sly: Keith Moon was great, especially when performing live, yunno. When he died, they never knew the bass player's name, but I love his style.

Pick: "See Me, Feel Me" (from *Tommy*, as performed live at Woodstock)

Sly & The Family Stone  
Larry Graham (bass), Greg Errico (drums)  
Sly: Wicked, man, wicked, man. Awesome. Cosmic.

Pick: "Sing A Simple Song"

The Meters  
George Porter (bass), Joseph "Zigaboo" Modeliste (drums)  
Sly: The wickedest rhythm section. Robbie: When I was young I used to listen to them.

Sly: And I'd think, "How can we copy them?" And nobody could. That rhythm

section was so unorthodox - in a class by itself.

Pick: "Look-A-Py-Py"

Various  
James Brown rhythm sections, including Bootsy Collins (bass), Clyde Stubblefield (drums)  
Sly: We asked Bootsy to play some funk for us, to play "Sex Machine", and he was playing the guitar part too!

Robbie: Bootsy played guitar for us on "Boops" and the album *Rhythm Killers* and *Language Barrier*.

Pick: "Sex Machine"

Weather Report  
Jaco Pastorius (bass), Peter Erskine (drums)  
Sly: That's my jazz rhythm section!

Robbie: He did things nobody had ever done on the bass. We were on a tour of Japan and he was on it. You think Jaco would have a fancy bass? One old Fender bass. He was the one who took out the frets, said he couldn't afford a fretless bass. Sly: Them harmonics things he played. I never heard nobody play. A full song, harmonic style.

Pick: "Birdland"

And, of course...  
Robbie Shakespeare (bass), Sly Dunbar (drums)  
Sly: The wickedest Sly & Robbie groove for all time is (Grace Jones's) "Pull Up To The Bumper" and "Boops".

Robbie: A Black Uhuru song, "Fit You Haffi Fit".

Sly: What drummer could play that? Totally different between the snare and the foot drum.

Robbie: Wicked.

Sly and Robbie's *Strip to the Bone* is out on Palm Pictures

### LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

After the failure of Blur's single to oust Britney Spears (below) from the top of the charts, the NME has said there's a case for rock's future "left-field aspirants" to follow the example of the rock dinosaurs and refuse to release singles

### Back to the Great Divide



If there's a case for snobbery  
It probably starts here:  
A choice between an alcopop  
Or decent pint of beer  
A trawl around our "hit parade"  
Its airheads and its chancers  
Its ditty little keyboard riffs  
And drama-school-trained dancers  
Whose cover shots and image fees  
For rapid promo vids  
Might buy a year of breakfasts  
For a town of starving kids

So could the only antidote  
Be "music-with-a-beard?"  
The difficult and lengthy  
The arty and the weird  
Where every track's  
a sort of threat  
Which keeps on switching key  
Or flaunts a nasty time-change  
Where choruses should be  
With minus no-potential  
As an advertising jingle  
And even less to offer  
As a radio-friendly single

Back to double gatefold sleeves  
And self-important solos?  
But back to men who musically  
Would give you their last Rolos  
Scruffy folk in wiry specs  
The fashion police would hate  
Unsuitable for TFI  
The Chart Show or Blind Date  
Who'd drag the music  
from the mall  
And into pastures fresh  
And leave the singles market  
To the muppets, as a crèche

**ROBERT HANKS**  
NASA's space station was clearly the origin of the phrase 'astronomically expensive'

PAGE 18

### RIFFS

THE FIRST-AND LATEST RECORDS BOUGHT BY MOLOKO'S MARK BRYDON

**First record**  
Colin Blundstone: Say You Don't Mind  
I find this record spooky. It is deeply nostalgic for me, and evocative of a certain time. You will understand why the nostalgia makes the record quite frightening, when I tell you that I was given it when entering puberty.

In fact, it's a very cheesy record, a one-hit wonder of a love ballad, but a ballad that almost manages to achieve a dizzy melancholy. So it's quite sophisticated, really. But again, I think the feeling of melancholy was mostly to do with my age, and how emotions tend to run away with themselves during puberty. I remember that I would be nearly in tears, and not know why.

It is always the melodies that really affect me, rather than the lyrics. And seeing as I had no concept of relationships at the time, I am sure I wasn't listening to the meaning.

Its influence is in there somewhere, like an albatross around my neck. This song is responsible for all my cheesy, melancholic leanings.

**Last record**  
Supercollider: Supercollider  
This is a great example of trying something different. It's really dark, with a lot of deep bass, and what I like to call disintegrated funk. This is less high energy than Seventies funk, and more a reinvention of the traditional

soulful funk. It's very Nineties funk.

It is also quite industrial and dirty. The ideal millennium party tune! The sound is dismembered - broken down into parts - and it jerks through many different genres throughout the record: a bit of house, some slower tempo music, and hip-hop. But, most important, it uses other music styles without being retrospective.

As a musician I find this experimentation is very appealing, and in a way it is what makes me play it, to experience new influences. It's a really modern look at how to be funky.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER ROGER

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May

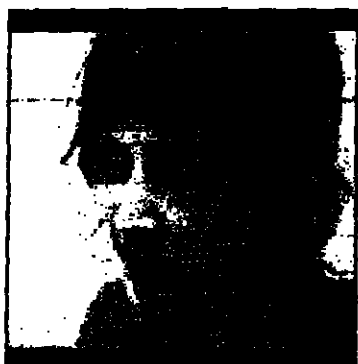
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## THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



**BETH ORTON**  
Central Reservation  
Heavenly

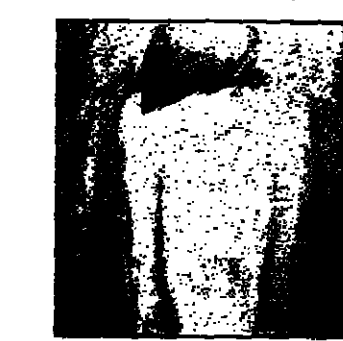
BETH ORTON'S career so far has followed a decidedly idiosyncratic path, tacking aimlessly between the apparently conflicting fields of folk and house music. She initially made her name collaborating with dance-floor dynamos such as William Orbit, Andrew Weatherall and The Chemical Brothers, but her second album reveals rather more, you suspect, of her own personal taste. The only vaguely "dancey" sounds on *Central Reservation* occur when Everything But The Girl's Ben Watt, acknowledged master of the techno/torch-song crossover, applies a faint synthesiser backdrop to the most discreet of trip-hop breakbeats to "Stars all Seem to Weep" and one of two versions of the title-track - and even then, so subtle is her work that the change is barely perceptible.

Elsewhere, the accumulated experience of two years' work with her live band has given Orton the confidence to develop the rootsier elements of her *Troiler Part* debut. With its subtle instrumental tinting and relaxed double-bass under-

pinnings, *Central Reservation* more closely follows the folk-jazz contours of Tim Buckley, John Martyn or Nick Drake - one track features Buckley's old vibes player, Dave Friedman, while the husky melisma of Orton's vocals inescapably brings to mind Drake's languid charm.

The mood throughout is calm and ruminate, particularly for tracks such as "Sweetest Decline", where gently sweeping strings and the cocktail finale of Dr John's piano support Orton as she muses in Thomas Gray vein: "Another day slips away, and my heart sinks with the sun." The other guests are equally well chosen: the distinctive slide guitar of Ben Harper uncoils warily through a couple of tracks, and the cult soul-jazz singer Terry Callier helps out on "Pass in Time", Orton's elegy for her late mother.

"There's no right or wrong, this isn't a test, and I won't lose my experience," Orton notes on "Couldn't Cause me Harm" - as level-headed an observation as any in contemporary pop music.



**BLUR**  
13  
Food

BLUR'S SIXTH album is a grower. On first hearing, it sounds rough and unfocused, the least solid of their releases; but with each subsequent encounter, its character becomes more clearly defined. Continuing their drift away from Britpop, it's undoubtedly their most courageous work, returning them to the psychedelic indie-rock of their *Leisure* debut. With Damon Albarn's separation from Justine Frischmann hanging over proceedings, it's rather morose, though there's no shortage of compensatory fun in the wealth of quirky detail layered in by William Orbit. He's given them the freedom to pursue a myriad different paths, taking their lead from such as the Plastic Ono Band ("Tender"), David Bowie ("Bugman"), The Fall ("Swamp Song") and krautrock ("Trailer Park"). The short and sharp "B.L.U.R.E.M.L." perhaps best shows the album's playfulness, punctuating a terse punk thrash with cartoon duck quacks, before tacking on a quiet piano postlude. It may lack the instant pop appeal of *Positivity*, but there's more authentic life to this music than anything they've done before.



**JEFF BECK**  
Who Else!  
Epic

THIS IS Jeff Beck's first proper album (i.e. not a soundtrack) since 1989's *Guitar Shop* ace-hero masterpiece, which must make him one of the country's most criminally under-utilised natural resources. The reason is probably his inability, or disinclination, to come up with new material. The kind of guitar wizardry that Beck specialises in mostly consists of small clusters of dazzling technical effects rather than melody lines, so it's fortunate that keyboardist Tony Hymas has come up with enough tunes to fill out another record, leaving the guitarist free to concentrate on expressing himself as spectacularly as possible. Accordingly, there are plenty of whizz-bang guitar stunts such as those on the opener "What Mama Said", the musical equivalent of a match carelessly tossed into a box of fireworks, shooting colourful guitar phrases in all directions. Balancing these showy pyrotechnics are subtler, moodier pieces such as "Angel (Footsteps)" and the live cut "Brush With The Blues", where Beck's taste and command of his instrument is simply nonpareil. Dazzling stuff.



**SHAWN MULLINS**  
Soul's Core  
SNA/Columbia

SHAWN MULLINS' infectious hit "Lullaby" contains one of the year's better couplets, when he says of Los Angeles, "Seems like everyone here's got a plan/It's kind of like Nashville with a tan". The song, an LA story of childhood dreams damned by the disillusion of adulthood, is typical of Mullins' work: he's a wandering troubadour in the classic Sixties mould, offering neatly-turned vignettes of ordinary lives and fleeting encounters in songs such as "September in Seattle" and "Gulf Of Mexico". His influences are clear: Dylan, Hank Williams and Kris Kristofferson for the most part, while Steve Earle's fingerprints are all over "Ballad Of Billy Jo McKay", a thumbnail sketch of small-town ennui. Mullins' characters all suffer from the American disease of restlessness, whether it's the hobo in "Twin Rocks, Oregon" or the wife in "Twin Bed Song" who tires of life in a trailer park. But there's no reproach, just a fellow-feeling for those whose American Dream has soured; as he admits in "Anchored In You", "...sometimes we dreamers just get in the way".



**PETER THOMAS SOUND ORCHESTRA**  
Warp Back To Earth 66/99  
Bungalow

SEPTUAGENARIAN SOUNDTRACK composer Peter Thomas is best known for his late-Sixties work on the cult German sci-fi series *Space Patrol Orion*, 29 fragments of which are collected together on the second of these two CDs. Titles such as "Communication In Hyperspace" and "Galaxy Fall Out" signal Thomas's territory, a universe composed of equal parts lounge muzak, jazz-rock and pioneering synthesiser soundscapes which, time being circular, sounds utterly contemporary today. The other disc features not so much remixes as re-applications of Thomas's sounds by disciples such as pop groups Saint Etienne and Stereolab - both of whom produce their most beguiling work in some time - and avant-rockers such as Stock, Hansen & Walkman. The results are an intriguing blend of the effete and the experimental. There's a regimentation to some tracks, however, that rather betrays the spirit of the original work: only the sonic bricolage of S.H.W.'s "Space Rocks" and the dark matter of Topsy's "Evol Guitar" come close to emulating the aleatory atmosphere of Thomas's own music.

## My, what a big lighting rig you've got



Hyde: sheer stamina

THE THING about Underworld is that they make repetitive electronic dance music that basically feels good and has a groove (not as easy as it sounds). They are also likeable - lovable, even. They project this likeability in a way that is larger than life on the Astoria's wide stage, in front of a matrix of five giant screens alternately showing abstract designs and closed-circuit TV images of the players.

Yet they do seem genuinely nice, your average guys-next-door, with £30,000 worth of electronics but thoughtful enough to use headphones after 11pm without being

asked. Your mother would like them.

What they do on stage is something like a recording studio mixing session turned into a performance. They all wear cordless headphones. Darren Emerson and Rick Smith operate faders and mute switches on a couple of mixers and Karl Hyde moves restlessly around the stage, sometimes twiddling what sounds like the filters of an analogue synthesiser, occasionally picking up a tambourine and, on one number, strapping on a type-decorated guitar.

It's Hyde's vocals, largely incomprehensible, repetitive yet compelling, that establish the rapport

with the audience. He bends and crouches, side-on, radio mic in hand, with elegant/awkward gestures and contortions rippling around his skinny frame. When he isn't singing, which is most of the time, Hyde remains in the spotlight, sidling between the equipment manned by Smith and Emerson, making gestures of support to his colleagues or to the audience.

**LIVE**  
UNDERWORLD  
ASTORIA  
LONDON

His stamina is enviable, but the Underworld show isn't really about the physical performance of songs. The show is a continuous two-hour audio-visual experience, based around repetition and electronic sound and four-square beats over which the five screens flash type and abstract images that sometimes complement and at other times contest the sound churning out.

The gargantuan rock'n'roll lighting rig, looking many times more expensive and sophisticated than the sound gear, has strobes, spotlights, rotating searchlights and blinding flashguns trained on the audience,

building to the point where the (predominantly male) ticket-holders are brilliantly flooded in time to the opening chords of "Born Slippy".

People dance or at least jiggle to their grooves, in a tradition of out-of-time English dancing that stretches back generations. Where the sampled kick drums go "dub, dub, dub, dub", the dancers seem to hear only "brnyah, brnyah, brnyah, brnyah". Underworld don't mind. They're nice guys, after all, and when you make repetitive electronic dance music, this is what happens.

On stage they are turning what was once a boring, unglamorous,

non-real-time process - studio work - into a performance. That it succeeds as entertainment is mainly down to Hyde. You can't keep your eyes off his mercurial, campy manoeuvres. Their easy listenability is down to Smith's inventive production, and the trio's collective instinct for tasty sounds.

Underworld's repetitive electronic dance music dresses and undresses the skeletal structure of hard, explicit, four-four beats in a way that leaves their dope-smoking, lager-swilling - but basically quite nice - audience wanting more.

JOHN L. WALTERS

## Cerys the menace

**LIVE**  
CATATONIA  
ASSEMBLY ROOMS  
DERBY



Matthews: Crass student sloganeering  
Kiran Ridley

WITH A bottle of wine in her hand and a withering sneer on her face, Cerys Matthews had the crowd bowing in reverence and throwing flowers at her feet on the first leg of their tour. As they screamed variations on her name - Cressie, Cerise, Cress - she barked: "How can you listen with all that shouting?" They responded by yelling louder, willing her to tell them off again.

Matthews is the primary force behind Catatonia and comes equipped with a hefty stage presence. She has cited Judy Garland as her musical hero and sells herself as the laddish hippie chick with an unlimited repertoire of damning soundbites. She also trades on her Celtic vowel sounds and crackling vocals, though Wednesday's show proved that she can just as easily switch on an angelic voice when required for wistful numbers.

During the hit single "Mulder and Scully", Matthews asked the crowd to help her

along, claiming that she had "problems with the high notes", but we were not to be deceived. Despite her throaty, 40-a-day vocals, Matthews rose beatifically above each note before demolishing them with larynx-lacerating force.

Memories of Matthews' remarkable voice will not quite obliterate the fundamental weaknesses in Catatonia's new songs. Previous material leaned heavily on zeitgeisty references which, combined with their generic indie pop, provided them with only fleeting appeal.

New songs revealed more similar sing-a-long melodies and a profusion of cultural clichés, from karaoke to feng shui. A new song, "Storm The Palace", echoed the insurrectionist sentiments of "I Am

The Mob", while the "make hay, not war" maxim in "Dead From The Waist Down" smacked of crass student sloganeering.

Fortunately, Matthews' magnetism outweighs the occasional crassness of Catatonia's songs. But with such a combination the band will - to borrow the title of their new album - find themselves "Equally

Cursed and Blessed".  
FIONA STURGES

Catatonia play the Octagon, Sheffield tonight, and Barrowlands, Glasgow on Sunday 14 March; the tour continues to 24 March.

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

## Pre-teenage kicks

**LIVE**  
STEPS  
FAIRFIELD HALLS  
CROYDON

FIRST THERE was the boy band. But now the world of disposable pop has taken heed of political correctness and come up with the consummate teen act: the boy/girl band.

After a decade away from the fray, Eighties pop-Svengali Pete Waterman has finally joined the dash to satisfy legions of pre-teens. Steps are the fruit of his endeavour.

Monday night's show opened with a video screen conveying instructions to the expectant tots. As the word "Scream" appeared, a noise erupted that was comparable to a swarm of mosquitoes homing in on a piece of flesh. Parents looked aghast as their little treasures were overtaken by hormones, screaming themselves silly before their idols had even graced the stage.

Steps arrived looking so fresh-faced and uncontami-

nated they could have been ejected from Asda for being genetically modified.

But for all their outward equality, there appeared to be an imbalance in their roles. The three girls got to do nearly all the singing and when the handsome Lee was finally brought on alone, it was only to perform a sleazy dance routine. And you couldn't help feeling sorry for "H" the goofy-looking boy with the floppy fringe. His biggest entrance was when he was wheeled on dressed as a lion for a cover of *The Lion King* theme tune.

Musically, Steps are reconstituted Abba. Their formula involves plinky-plinky dance rhythms with saccharine

melodies on a variety of themes: boy meets girl; boy loses girl; boys admits that he has behaved atrociously; boy wins back girl. In case we didn't get it, a pair of dancers acted out a scene of lovers' reconciliation throughout "This Heart Will Love Again". The girls at the front struggled to fight back the tears.

But Steps' showbiz background has served them well. Their stage-school voices were flawless, if a little dull, while their polished good humour

was enough to rival the most kindly *Blue Peter* presenter.

And when it comes to choreography, Steps must be the first teen act since Take That not to be outshone by their own dancers. You can imagine that when their musical careers dwindle, an aerobics video won't be far behind.

If Pete Waterman hasn't already drawn up a blueprint for their "Step-By-Step" video, I'll forfeit my Steps pop-up book.

FIONA STURGES



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# Back to Jewish roots

A unique archive of folk music has been given new life, as have historic piano recordings

## SIGHT READINGS



MICHAEL CHURCH

In 1911 a group of folklorists set out from St Petersburg to comb the Russian shtetls for Jewish songs and chants. Inspired by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and led by SM Ansky - author of *The Dybbuk* - they wanted to record this oral tradition before it evaporated for good. The resulting collection of cylinders was so impressive that the incoming Bolsheviks decreed that the work should continue in Kiev, and put their own man in charge. Moses Beregovsky was a good Stalinist and an excellent folklorist, and until his deportation to Siberia in 1949 he recorded and meticulously transcribed several thousand more songs and texts. However, when he was released in 1955 the cylinders were found to have disappeared, and people came to assume that this unique archive had been destroyed.

Now the ebullient Israel Adler, professor of musicology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, takes up the tale. "Four years ago the director of the National Library in Kiev came to see us about photocopying manuscripts and, seeing our cylinder collection, he mentioned that he too had some cylinders, which the American Library of Congress had looked at without much interest. Could this be the Beregovsky collection? I jumped on the first available plane to Kiev, and discovered that it was."

Last week, in an oddly touching ceremony at London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Adler and his patron Yehudi Menuhin took delivery of an inaugural CD from the Ukrainian ambassador, amid protestations of eternal friendship between Ukrainians and Jews.

Even leaving aside the awkward matter of past pogroms, the course of this love affair has been bumpy, with Kiev raising endless obstacles to the digitalisation of the recordings. Jerusalem wants. While Adler's aim is to make the archive available to scholars all over the world, Kiev's aim is to make a profit. As a Berlin-born *Just-Jade*, Adler takes this sort of adversity for granted. "Whenever things seem discouraging, I listen



Music from the old country: pieces preserved on the Kiev recordings would not be out of place in 'Fiddler on the Roof' Kobal Collection

again to these marvellous recordings. Then I am re-inspired."

To illustrate the point, he plays some examples: a Bartokian country song with driving rhythms; a dance sounding as if it is straight out of *Fiddler on the Roof*; an austere beautiful liturgical chant. When this latter was recently broadcast on Haifa radio, he adds, a middle-aged Israeli rang in to say that he recognised the voice of the cantor. It was his own grandfather.

Jewish music is at present on a roll, but what exactly is it? Alex Knapp, the Joe Loss lecturer at City University, who next month moves to SOAS, offers a neat definition. "Cantillation. Music that traces its origins to the temple chant of 2,000 years ago." But then things get complicated, because the music has absorbed influences from every land where it has alighted. He traces its transmutations with the Ashkenazic Jews to America, the Sephardic round the Mediterranean, and Oriental Jews through Ethiopia, Yemen, and eastwards to China. China? "Well, they're not one of the

57 officially recognised minorities, but there are still 600 Jews living in Kaifeng, and they still retain remnants of the orthodox tradition." Adler has several times lectured on Jewish music at Peking Conservatoire. "The Chinese find Jewish music very moving - they say it comes straight from the heart."

Adler is hot on Jewish music's influence on "daughter religions", as exemplified in Gregorian chant and the music of Islam, but he excludes from his researches most Western music composed by Jews, except when it reflects a conscious return to its roots. Examples? "Ernest Bloch, Arnold Schoenberg, Darius Milhaud - and Leonard Bernstein."

MEANWHILE SOMETHING extraordinary is happening with that other piece of dinosaur technology, the piano roll. While Nimbus perseveres with its ambitious Grand Piano series, in which rolls out by Twenties virtuosi are translated into sound by a robot

pianist, Telarc has just unveiled the ultimate computerised answer. The problem with the robot is one of tonal balance; we get the architecture of the performances, but little sense of their original texture.

Computers have often been used to "translate" rolls, but never with anything like the finesse of Telarc's two Rachmaninov recordings, entitled *A Window in Time*. Wayne Stahnke, an aerospace engineer, apparently conceived his idea while working at NASA; it involves a computer program containing a mathematical model of the pneumatic mechanism originally used to play the roll. But the results, played through a computerised Bösendorfer, banish all thoughts of science. Here at last is the airy magic the unsmiling maestro must have exuded in reality.

ON THE other hand, if you don't mind the boxy acoustic you can get a very decent idea of Rachmaninov's disc recordings in Philips's Great Pianists of the 20th Century series. This

month's releases include Jan Paderewski, Benno Moiseiwitsch and the divine Clara Haskil, plus an Alfred Cortot record that really does stop me in my tracks. Launching into Schumann's turbulent *Kreisleriana*, the French guru shoots clean off the rails in bar six and stays off them, floundering desperately, for the whole of the first piece. This isn't great pianism; it's an absolute hoot. How can its inclusion possibly be justified?

Tom Deacon, whose brainchild this series is, sees no reason to apologise. "All right, it's a mess. But he was a great pianist, and his Schumann has a wonderful glow. I'd rather hear his wrong notes than any proficient pianist's right ones. We have every right to put into the edition someone who has his eye on poetry, rather than merely on notes. The saddest thing now is to be confronted with Maurizio Pollini in concert, because it has nothing to do with the Pollini we know from records. The pursuit of technical perfection is the curse of modern musical life." I can only agree.

## THE COMPACT COLLECTION

ROB COWAN ON THE WEEK'S CD RELEASES

THE YOUNG man whom Tchaikovsky once considered to be his successor, and who went on to pen this century's most famous piano concerto, suffered a devastating blow when, in 1897, his First Symphony was given the critical thumbs down. And yet "Rachmaninov One" positively seethes with Tchaikovsky passion. The outer movements suggest an imperious grandeur that spells Old Russia in every bar: the opening is black as night; the lyrical second subject is serenely beautiful; and the finale's rousing introduction (once used as the theme tune to *Panorama*) is both fierce and festive.

It was almost 50 years before the symphony enjoyed a second performance, and 20 more before a respectable commercial recording hit the shelves. Since then it has enjoyed the attentions of numerous accomplished maestros, not least Mariss Jansons, whose new EMI recording with the St Petersburg Philharmonic has colossal impact - especially from the lower strings and bass drum. Jansons is especially effective in the finale's dramatic opening, where distant muted horn-calls stop the thrilling first idea dead in its tracks.

The fill-up is Rachmaninov's surging evocation of Arnold Böcklin's painting *The Isle of the Dead*, with its swaying pulse and obsessively swelling lines. The performance is, if anything, even finer, and the sound quality is just as impressive.

Moving south, and with the heat full on, the harpichordist Andreas Staier lights the touch-paper for some explosive pre-Classical "Variations on the Spanish Fandango". I doubt that many readers will have encountered a more viscerally exciting disc of (relatively) early music - certainly not in terms of performance standards. The opening selection is the best known, Antonio Soler's 10-minute Fandango, with its sexy melody line, propulsive rhythms and

scorching harmonies. Staier rounds off his programme in the company of his fellow-harpichordist Christine Schornheim and Adela Gonzales Campa on castanets, for a powerhouse arrangement of the Fandango from Boccherini's Fourth Quintet. Both pieces are wild as the wind - though there are colourful, and occasionally more restful, diversions midway from the composers Sebastian de Albero, Josep Gallés, Felix Máximo Lopez and José Ferrer. Once sampled, Staier's sizzling Fandango extravaganza will be a favourite visitor to your CD tray. If you love Domenico Scarlatti, then you'll surely adore this superbly recorded programme.

Sound quality takes something of a backward slide for a bewitching though sonically compromised 77 minutes in the company of the great Polish piano virtuoso Ignaz Friedman.

Connoisseurs have been waxing lyrical over Friedman's playing for years, and for good reason. Who else launches Chopin's "Revolutionary" Study with such incredible finger velocity, raising an aural storm in the process but with every note intact? Mendelssohn's elfin E minor Scherzo is a rocket trailed by stardust; Chopin's A flat Polonaise is all thunder and pride, and Hummel's elegant Rondo becomes a tonal hurricane.

But rather than play the disc straight through, I would start at the very end (track 22) with the most poetic and subtly voiced performance of Chopin's 16th Nocturne ever recorded. Then, you might move back to tracks 1 (Hummel), 8 (Mendelssohn) and 9 (Friedman's own adorable "Elle Danse"). Four previously unissued tracks add further confirmation of Friedman's pianistic genius, and APR's annotation is exemplary.

Rachmaninov/Jansons: EMI CDC5 56754 2  
Fandangos/Staier: Teldec 3984-21468-2  
Ignaz Friedman: APR 5508

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

寿司ガイド



## Guide to Sushi

From its origins in Japan 1,000 years ago, Sushi has become a worldwide phenomenon.

*The Independent on Sunday's Guide to Sushi*, published on March 14, outlines Sushi's history and culture, and explains the different varieties. Learn to prepare sushi at home with a simple step-by-step guide, and unlock the mysteries of this delicious, fresh and nutritious food with the *Guide to Sushi*.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Asahi

## Mr Preview celebrates in style

### REVIEW

LSO/ANDRE PREVIN  
BARBICAN  
LONDON

YOU STILL half-expect to see André Previn emerge as he will surely be remembered: the Beatles-style haircut, the trendy polo-neck dress-shirt, a pop celebrity in classical music. Mr Preview, as Eric Morecambe so memorably dubbed him. What an extraordinary era that was.

But André Previn, senior citizen, the London Symphony Orchestra's Conductor Laureate, will have many good reasons for enjoying the age he now is. Two of them were on the bill of fare for this 70th birthday concert. They were English, naturally. They were old favourites, old affairs still

ongoing, his constant travelling companions. The love that Previn has always expressed for Vaughan Williams's Fifth Symphony is self-evident now in his ability to chart its pilgrim's progress without seeming to do so. Where his famous London Symphony Orchestra recording urged us, implored us, to share in the experience, to journey with him to that particular

vantage point where we might glimpse at last the "Celestial City", the feeling now is one of simple contentment in the deep and abiding consolation that Vaughan Williams's Bunyan-inspired work invokes.

The piece takes as long as it takes, and as long as it takes will never be quite long enough. The shadowy beasties that inhabit the mercurial scherzo are no longer as fleet-footed as they once were (Previn conveniently erases the composer's presto marking), but what was once a labour of love is now no labour at all.

The old Previn (as opposed to old Previn's mannerisms

remain. The arms still float almost involuntarily above the head to lend height to the sound, to lift those violins back up to where they belong. The left hand explicitly gestures a more intense vibrato, as if he himself were playing upon the entire section. And I don't think it's too fanciful to suggest that you hear his hard-earned authority in the sound now. The luminous string triads that stretched out before us at the start of the Romanza were both intangible and solid - a vision and a reality. The LSO strings don't produce that for just anybody.

And so to Britten's *Spring*

*Symphony* and the delight that Previn's compositely ear so plainly takes in it. From the very start, as assorted percussion play out the death-rattle of winter, it's the quirkiness, the English eccentricity of the invention that grabs you. English poetry found its musical match in Benjamin Britten. He could be just as jolly, fey, coy, rumbustious - and profound. He could even be better.

Henry Vaughan's "Waters Above" is ennobled in Britten's setting, the fine rain of string sound in memorable juxtaposition to WH Auden's "Out on the Lawn", in which the strings are eliminated in favour of

darkly nocturnal woodwind. Roberta Alexander's plangent low notes sat well here alongside the mystical musings of alto flute and bass clarinet. Her colleagues - Dame Felicity Lott (looking very Aubrey Beardsley) and John Mark Ainsley - were fine, too.

And the LSO Chorus, as ever, excelled. That great moment in the finale (spring's last fling) where they beeryly hurl out their giddy waltz while children's voices raucously counterpoint "Summer is loveliness" felt like Previn's younger than springtime? In spirit.

EDWARD SECKERSON

### ON THE AIR

BAYAN NORTHCOTT



Frederick Delius - a work rediscovered Hulton Getty

WHAT A difference a presenter of informed partisanship can make to a series such as *Composer of the Week*. Over the last few days, the familiar Radio 3 tones of Paul Guinery have taken on a positively passionate urgency in the cause of Frederick Delius. Less familiar works, such as the violin and piano sonatas, are not just shapeless rhapsodies but structures generated by their own idiosyncratic processes. Guinery has argued, programming all four of them to prove it. But the most remarkable token of his enthusiasm turned up in Tuesday's edition, with a specially made recording by the BBC Concert Orchestra under Vernon Handley of a substantial score from Delius's maturity which - incredibly, at so late a date - had never been performed before.

Or, at any rate, not all of it. Delius worked on *A Poem of*

*Life and Love* during the First World War, but was overtaken by the blindness and paralysis of his final years before he could revise it for publication and performance. Only in 1929, when he acquired an amanuensis in the young Eric Fenby, was he able to resume composing by dictation - extracting passages from the 18-minute span of *A Poem of Life and Love*, providing new links and a different beginning and ending, and publishing the 10-minute result as *A Song of Summer*. If this suggests a process of distillation, the opportunity to hear one score after the other on Tuesday revealed a far more radical transformation - as if you were listening to two quite different works, which happened to share some of the same material.

Where the opening of *A Song of Summer* is a serene

seascape, *A Poem of Life and Love* has a longer, darker groping introduction. There follows an Allegro conspicuously echoing the style of his far earlier tone-poem *Paris* - perhaps for suppressed narrative reasons

- and a central section of heroic landscape evocations and big climaxes, little of which survives in the more idyllic later score. As Delius left it, *A Poem of Life and Love* is hardly a masterpiece, but its

emergence fills a significant gap in his evolution and offers a fascinating insight into his creative process. Its recording and presentation also remind us that, in a musical environment that is increasingly dominated by the market, there are certain culturally vital services that Radio 3 alone is able to offer.

Half an hour after the Delius premiere, Radio 4 offered its own variation on life and love in the first of a new series entitled *The Musical Side of the Family*. This featured the biographer Claire Tomalin recalling her mother, Muriel Herbert - a gifted pianist and song composer who studied at the Royal College of Music with Stanford, pleased Joyce and Yeats with her settings of their poems, and then - after the all-too-familiar pattern - lost her creative impetus in marriage and child-rearing.

A selection of her songs, specially recorded for the programme by the baritone Richard Lloyd-Morgan, suggested an accomplished, if not overly original, style pitched somewhere between the Edwardian balladry of Roger Quilter (who encouraged her) and the more sparsely pastoral Gerald Finzi.

Tomalin's purpose, however, was not to plead for a critical reappraisal, but to convey the primal experience of absorbing this music at her mother's knee. Though apparently recorded in captivity, every carefully chosen phrase of her reminiscences came fraught with complex feeling: affection, sadness, a certain guilt perhaps, such as the self-realised tend to feel about parents who were prevented from fulfilling comparable gifts. I found this programme extraordinarily touching.



## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

## THE FIVE BEST FILMS

## THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

**(Northcott, Exeter)**  
Mike Alfreds' crack company, Method and Madness, in a new play by Philip Osment, specialising in matters of the heart. To 27 Mar

## THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

**(Tate Gallery, Liverpool)**  
**"New World Order":** more curvaceous assemblages  
of wood, metal, glass and plastic – some gigantic,  
some humble – by the Eighties sculptor. *To 16 May*

**CINEMA**  
**WEST END**

**CINEMA**  
**WEST END**

**BROMLEY**  
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Bromley North/Bromley South  
Bug's Life 12.25pm 2.40pm

12.50pm, 4.20pm, 7.50pm,  
11.20pm This Year's Love 9.50pm,  
12.20am Urban Legend 9.35pm,  
11.45pm La Vite è Bella 4.30pm,  
9.15pm You've Got Me! 12.25pm,  
2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm,  
11.45pm, 3pm, 4.10pm, 5.30pm,  
7.40pm, 10.10pm, 12.10pm  
Little Voice: 6pm My Name  
Joe 12midnight Patch Adams  
11.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm,  
9.30pm, 12midnight Pleasant  
11am, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm,  
9.20pm, 12midnight, 2.50pm, 5pm,  
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## CINEMA

### LONDON LOCALS

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**Shakespeare in Love** 1pm  
3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Stepmo  
11.50am, 2.20pm, 7.20pm T  
Thin Red Line 11.20am, 10

4pm, 5.05pm **Madeline** 12.40  
Patch Adams 12.10pm, 2.50  
5.50pm, 8.30pm **Pleasant**  
12noon, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20  
**Shakespeare in Love** 8.05pm  
Thin Red Line 12.35pm, 4  
7.30pm **You're Got Mail** 7.40

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# FRIDAY TELEVISION

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THE FRIDAY REVIEW  
The Independent 12 March 1999



## ROBERT HANKS TELEVISION REVIEW

THERE IS NO such thing as pure science, science is always tainted by money. Last night's Horizon (BBC2) was no exception. It was an attempt to build a manned space station, but as the budget needed to be kept realistic, the station stayed resolutely earthbound. It turned into a story of cash and politics.

The project began in 1984 when, joined by Soviet Russia, the British and French announced that they were working together to build a space station within 10 years. Budget meetings were held, models of the station and launchers for the President to play with, he approved their proposed budget of \$200 million without a murmur. (You wonder if anybody else caught on to this trick - if, say, the Pentagon chiefs of staff would roll up to the Oval Office with a couple of briefcases of plastic soldiers and a remote-controlled tank, in the hope of getting a decent war of the worlds.)

But NASA swiftly realised that they had not themselves to the \$200 million. It was a good reason for it.

There was a moral to this, just a slowly burgeoning sense of wonder at the monstrous extravagance of it all. I suppose you could take it as a tale of the ambivalence of modern technology, in which case you would be much happier with Fred Dineen's Industrial Age (BBC2), in which Dineen travels the country looking at boilers, steam engines and this week, mining gear. It's a historical program full of little historical facts, but with the wider context of the industrial revolution, it's a very good reason for it.

And as the costs kept growing, you began to see where the money was going. The station was to be built in orbit, but as the project dragged on, crystal-growing techniques improved to the point where microgravity began to look irrelevant. Another justification was the hope of sending manned missions into space - perhaps to Mars. But the cost of this was estimated at \$500m, and cheap little rovers have already scanned, photographed and

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